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First name: Thomas

Last name: Stewart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Fees

Dear Willamette and Deschutes National Forests,

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

Please listen to the public -- the non-commercial, non-extractive actual users of the National Forests -- and withdraw the unprecedented fee scheme for individual hikers and horseback riders in the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness areas. Hiking, horseback riding, seeking solitude and nature appreciation are not specialized, organized activities, they are the oldest pastimes of mankind and a major reason for wilderness designation. The Wilderness Act does not permit the kind of exploitation of the public that the fee proposal would impose if finalized.

I am afraid that if initiated in the Cascades, these fees will be adopted in other Forests around the country. Access to wilderness is often in low income areas, and it is unfair to extract money from local families for whom hiking and playing in the woods is the most affordable and healthy recreation available.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Stewart

3316 Cagua Dr NE

Albuquerque, NM 87110