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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Fees

Dear Willamette and Deschutes National Forests,

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

I think the proposal to charge people for hiking Wilderness areas is wrong. You do not own Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness areas in the Oregon Cascades. Wilderness areas belong to all of the American people.

I fear the commercialization of Wilderness, and of the Forest Service, which loves mines and cattle and logging much more than simple Wilderness users.

It is enough to implement limited-access measures for the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness Areas.

This fee proposal is unprecedented as the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests would be the first national forest in the U.S. to implement a fee system across three Wilderness areas that will charge for all overnight use plus day use at 19 trailheads across 450,000-plus acres of Wilderness.

I am appalled that you would pretend this fee for private individuals to hike and camp is covered by a clause in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) that allows a fee for "specialized recreation uses" such as group activities, recreation events, and motorized recreational vehicles. It shows how radical your agency has become in its disdain for the general public.

I see the fees as a horrible national precedent for other Wilderness areas and I wish you failure.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra Patla

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