

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/25/2019 3:16:52 AM

First name: Lisa

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Proposed permit fee for 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I have a few comments and concern regarding this fee, as a Deschutes County resident and long time (over 20 year Oregon resident).

1. I read that the fee is supposed to be in effect from May 22, 2020 until the end of Sept. I understand why the May date... but I would strongly suggest that perhaps the Sept. end date be right after Labor Day weekend. The tourists and visitors significantly decrease after that time... and it would be MOST appreciated for those of us living and caring for the forest area year round... to have access at that time.

2. Concerned for those who have a Federal Senior pass.... something that they earned the privilege of having (and paid for).... to have the discount for so many Federal forest and parks area.... yet now, that seems to mean nothing? They have to pay the same fee as anyone else? That's what we were told at a meeting.

3. How will this be enforced initially when so many visitors may arrive and have no idea about the fee. They may show up at a trail site... and go ahead and hike or backpack ... as they did not know about the fee.... and don't want to take the time to reschedule their hike or backpack.

4. Why so MANY hikes with fees - at least for the first year?? I would have thought that initially starting with the very busy and overused areas like Green Lakes, South Sister, Tam McArthur Rim... and a few others... to start more gradually to get people used to the idea and how to use the system... then in one to two years, add more trails. This would be easier for the Forest Service to begin the implementation AND be easier on hikers and backpackers to get more used to how the system will work.

Thank you for reading and considering my comments. That is, IF you do read and consider them. I have my doubts. I feel like what the public thinks doesn't really matter after the meeting I attended at the Forest Service. It was VERY disappointing and not helpful; nor did I feel like the public was treated with much respect for our concerns and questions. In fact, quite the opposite.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Evans
Bend, OR

