

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/4/2019 12:17:04 AM

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Comments: Use fees

I'm writing to comment about the proposed use fees for Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and 3 Sisters Wilderness'. While I support limiting use to these fragile areas, I strongly object to user fees.

It is my opinion that forest service land is part of the public trust and therefore should be free for all the public to use. Wilderness areas, like the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC and all the National Monuments, are all part of the public trust and should be open to all with no user fees. Everyone should be able to enjoy nature. Fees discriminate against financially disadvantaged individuals.

The Pacific Northwest started these user fees years ago with the Forest Passes. They started off at \$5 or \$10, a small fee for use. Now they are up to \$30, as the Forest Service in the NW passes more and more of the cost for trail maintenance and parking to consumers. What I observe is that recreation budgets are cut while fire suppression budgets are increased. It feels like recreational users are subsidizing fire suppression.

Outside of the Pacific NW other national forests do not charge fees for access to wilderness areas. The Willamette National Forest should not expand this practice and should make ALL wilderness permits free.

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