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First name: Rainbow

Last name: Dreamer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Proposed fee for Wilderness in Central Oregon

First and foremost, I understand the need to limit entry into the heavily used areas of the wilderness in Central Oregon. It is not an easy problem to solve, as access and preservation are often in conflict.

That being said, I'm very disappointed in the direction the Forest Service has proposed. One of the greatest values of living in Central Oregon is the access to the mountains and mountain wilderness. As a resident of Bend for over 30 years, it is heart breaking to know I will no longer have assured access to our wilderness. I'm also an avid runner, and it is hard to imagine that I'll need to plan my entire year of training runs in the mountains by April (let alone how much that would cost).

The proposed system seems to place an undue burden on the local community, as we're the ones who will pay the largest fees if we visit our own public lands with any regularity. It seems like a system for locals to have better access is paramount to success of keeping the areas regulated. Perhaps a season pass of some sort would be possible, as I'm more concerned about access than money. As currently proposed, I would need to plan my outings to the mountains like a tourist visiting a foreign country. The difference is my outings will take place less than an hour from my door step. This seems totally unreasonable to me.

**PLEASE KEEP ACCESS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS!**

I've tried calling the FS on multiple occasions to get specific details of the permit system, but I've never spoken to someone who could answer my basic questions and I equally never received any calls back.

I find it hard to believe these comments are even read, let alone listened to, but this is my two cents.