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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Opposition to Wilderness Access fees for Willamette and Deschutes National Forests

We are Central Oregon residents and frequently hike in the region.

We are writing to express our opposition to the special recreation permit fees that the Forest Service is considering as a part of a new limited entry system for day and overnight use in the Three Sisters, Mt. Jefferson, Waldo Lake, Diamond Peak, and Mt. Washington wilderness areas in the Central Cascades of Oregon.

We understand that the Forest Service is considering to limit entry in areas that are overused to protect these areas. However, are opposed to the substantial new fees proposed to enter our public lands. We already pay for entering our public lands through the recently introduced Northwest Forest Pass. The additional proposed fees will be an undue burden, especially for low income families and young people on a limited income. They will effectively exclude many from enjoying our public lands. We are also concerned that there is no accountability on how the proposed fees would be used and that they would only be available through recreation.gov, a notoriously cumbersome and privately owned for-profit company.

We urge the Forest Service to keep access to our public lands open for all and not introduce new fees for entry into Central Oregon wilderness areas.

Best regards,

Sarah and Dirk Baron

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