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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Fees

Dear Willamette and Deschutes National Forests,

To the US Forest Service:

As an outdoor lover of limited means and a hiker in Oregon when on vacation, I am strongly opposed to your proposal to charge people to take a walk in the in the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness areas in the Oregon Cascades. This fee would violate the intent and purpose of the Wilderness Act. Wilderness areas belong to all of the American people. We have paid for them with our taxes.

A plan is already in place to require limited-access permits starting next year in order to prevent overcrowding and resource damage in the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness Areas. I support quotas to protect these areas from being overrun by people, but I am opposed to charging hikers to simply walk in these areas.

The Willamette and Deschutes National Forests would be the first national forests in the U.S. to implement a fee system that will charge for day use at 19 trailheads across three Wilderness areas .

I strongly urge you to rescind this fee proposal.

Sincerely,

Susan Shields

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