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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Fees

To whom it may concern,

thank you for your efforts and for all you do in working to sustain the Wilderness Experience. I can only imagine the hurdles you're up against. My wife and I are avid trail runners, backpackers, hikers and back country snowboarders and we have noted the dramatic increase in usage at many of our favorite trails and the resulting damage, trash, human waste etc. and this is a sad and perhaps inevitable degradation due to growth, tourism campaigns, and social media.

I do believe that increasing the fees of Wilderness areas is a wise plan and there will always be critics and skeptics. I think that the Forest Service needs to be specific in educating the public of this urgent necessity. My concern is that as a local "Bendite" these restrictions can be prohibitive with planning an impromptu visit to the areas that are in close proximity to my home. On any given early morning (6am or earlier) or weekday evening following work I'd like to be able to hustle to the mountains for a run on Soda Creek/Green Lakes loop, Todd Lake to Broken Top, Todd Lake to Ditch Crater, Devils Lake to Moraine Lake or South Sister without the restrictions of a limited use pass.

- * Has the Forest Service considered offering a season pass to those of us that desire the freedom to use these trails when we desire?
- * If not a season pass perhaps offering a multiple day packages similar to what ski areas offer (multi-day tickets, 5 day tickets, 10 days etc).
- * To mediate the concerns of those that will decry this as prohibitive due to cost perhaps the Forest Service would consider incorporating a program to reward volunteers with unrestricted usage when they work a specific number of hours to help with trail maintenance?

As a side, my wife and I were in Banff, Canada last summer and they have an aggressive policy in shuttling people to trail heads and closing parking lots when full.

- * Could this be a solution to the overcrowding and simple dangerous driving conditions created by overcrowding at Green Lakes, Broken Top, Todd Lake, and Devils Lake.
- * Would it be out of the question to use Mt Bachelor's parking area as a staging and shuttle area incorporating buses to get folks to these popular areas? Charging a nominal buss fee or offering seasonal passes would also help manage the usage on these trails.

I passionately desire to have our beloved Wilderness areas preserved and believe that without immediate action these areas will only spiral further into superhighways to the Wilderness rather than the singletrack trails as intended.

Again, thank for all you do and taking my opinions into consideration.

Happy trails!

Robert & Stephanie DeClerk
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