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First name: Ryan

Last name: Chaney

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness Recreation Fees

To Whom It May Concern-

I wish to record my strong opposition to the newly proposed fee structure for hiking in our public wilderness areas throughout Oregon. As an avid backpacker and father to three boys who frequently backpack and day hike with me and my wife, I would like to particularly express my outrage the excessively high proposed fees for a family such as mine to go on an extended backpacking trip. For the five of us to go for a weeklong backpacking trip the cost would be \$181, which is completely ridiculous! For the same price I could get two or three nights in a low-priced motel in most small towns in Oregon!! We are a very average middle class family and even for us the cost would be prohibitive, let alone how much more prohibitive the cost would be for lower income families who would be priced completely out of overnight wilderness recreation altogether.

Our tax money already funds wilderness areas, and for many years at the polls my wife and I have supported our lawmakers and ballot measures which advocate for our beautiful Oregon wilderness. But this new fee structure feels very much like a stab in the back after these years of support, and smells to me like a money grab and double-taxation for something we already pay for. I'm very upset by the proposed fees, deeply oppose the amount it will cost families like mine to enjoy our public lands, and strongly suggest a far more limited price structure or at the bare minimum a reasonable family maximum amount.

The result of the fees as currently proposed will be families like mine forced out of the wilderness. As a lifetime Oregon resident, I don't want my boys deprived of the rich and frequent wilderness experiences I had growing up here. Please reconsider the excessively expensive impact on families like mine.

Sincerely,

Ryan Chaney
Salem, Ore.