

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/31/2019 6:13:52 PM

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Title:

Comments: Opposition Statement to Wilderness Fee Permit

My name is Mark Jewell, and for the last 40 years my family and I have lived in Eugene, Oregon.

One of the things that I found most attractive about living in Oregon was the access that we had to public lands, especially in Central Oregon. We have gone to the Three Sisters Wilderness almost every year that we have been in Oregon.

I have been on the Deschutes National Forest website and have been reading about the Central Cascade Wilderness Strategies Project that is being proposed for five different wilderness areas here in Oregon. Specifically, it appears that the Deschutes National Forest is attempting to restrict entry into these wilderness areas through a variety of onerous bureaucratic strategies. This includes fee-based permits and the restriction on campfires above 5700 feet elevation. ·

Formerly, the Deschutes National Forest has engaged in other tactics, such as moving the Park Meadows trailhead entry point over a mile from its original location in an attempt to stifle wilderness visitors.

I find this very troubling because the Deschutes National Forest is attempting to turn these five wilderness areas into a nanny state with all sorts of bureaucratic obfuscation. There appears to be very little leadership here on the part of a federal agency to manage increasing numbers of Americans seeking to visit these wilderness.

I am opposed to the permit plan because it imposes difficulties on both local residents and visitors who seek to enjoy the beautiful public wilderness.

Mark Jewell

Eugene, Oregon