Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2020 5:35:57 AM
First name: Diana
Last name: Martinez
Organization:
Title:
Comments: ATTN: Recreation Fees

Hello,

Thank you for attempting to implement more protections to Oregon's beautiful wilderness areas. Having said that, I do not believe that all of the fees and restrictions are the in the Central Cascades Permit Fee Proposal are fair.

I grew up in Oregon, and have wanted to hike the Oregon section of the PCT for many years, now. I have finally saved up enough money and vacation time, but was sorely disappointed to see how restrictive the proposed permitting system may be. I will only be getting 5 weeks off, and it will be very difficult to obtain a permit in my window, when in competition with other hikers for only a few permits. I don't want to compete with my fellow hikers. I wonder if the forest service can rely more on education and stewardship than restrictions to access.

I was very disappointed to see how expensive the daily fee would be, since I plan to hike through that area in about 8 days. My friend, who is on a fixed income, will be joining me, and I don't see how she'll be able to afford it. If we could at least have a fee cap for backpackers to reduce the financial burden, that would be better. I don't mind paying a small fee, but the proposed daily amount adds up and is just too much. Statistically speaking, people of color make up a large part of the low-income population, and by barring low-income people, you are also barring communities of color. Oregon already has a tragic history of this, I would hate to see it continued in our public lands, where indigenous communities once lived.

I love Oregon's Cascade Range so much. It holds extremely important spiritual and familial significance to me. I am sure I'm not the only Oregonian who feels this way. I'd love to share this land with my fellow Oregonians, not compete for it. I agree with the Oregon: PCT's analysis and hope that another option that is more fair for low-income hikers can be implemented.

Thank you for your consideration,
Diana Martinez