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Comments: Potential fee for accessing Oregon wilderness areas

?I oppose implementing a fee for entering heavily used wilderness areas in Oregon, such as Three Sisters, Mt. Jefferson, and Mt. Hood. I agree that these areas are too heavily used, resulting in excessive garbage, human waste, and trail/campsite deterioration. However, imposing a fee would only reduce the population of low income individuals, such as college students, young families, and retired people on pensions. Instead of implementing a fee on all users, perhaps a fee could be imposed on the group who puts the greatest potential stress on the environment, backpackers, who typically bury human waste more than hikers and impose a greater footprint by camping (as opposed to just hiking). The revenue generated by a backpacker fee could then be allocated toward constructing composting outhouses especially near heavy use areas, such as Moraine Lake, Green Lakes, and Camp Lake near South Sister.

Theresa Conroy