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First name: Matt

Last name: Peterson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: FW: Proposed seasonal fees in Wilderness areas managed by the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: jon stewart [mailto:raincloudtreefarm@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 12:02 PM

To: Peterson, Matt B -FS <matt.peterson@usda.gov>;

Subject: Proposed seasonal fees in Wilderness areas managed by the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests

Dear Mr. Peterson,

As a retired Forest Service employee (and a former PAO on the Deschutes and Ochoco NF) I recognize how obtuse and confusing it is to provide an easy way for the public to comment on your actions - or for that matter to determine exactly what your proposed actions are. Although you are deeply involved in this process and probably understand it some detail, I found the offerings on the web as difficult to interpret as ever. Such bureaucratic miasmas continue to alleviate the public from the agency.

As a long distance hiker my concern is that long distance hikers who have obtained a permit to hike the PCT will not have to purchase or obtain a separate permit to hike through the Cascade wilderness areas affected by your

proposed fee structure. I know that has been true in national parks and wildernesses along the trail up to this time, but could find no reference to it in your proposed permit system.

I do hope this has been considered because it is almost impossible for long distance hikers to plan their entry to the wilderness areas affected with any certainty and very difficult to obtain permits when they are required as I have discovered hiking the Grand Enchantment Trail in Arizona and the Continental Divide Trail thru Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

Therefore I strongly support allowing those long distance PCT hikers who have a valid PCT permit not be required to pay a fee and be able to hike the PCT through the affected wildernesses gratis.

Sincerely

Jon Stewart