



Pacific Northwest Region
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
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News Release

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Snake River Fee Proposal – Public Input period Extended to September 30

JOSEPH, OR - The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) is extending the public input period associated with the proposed Special Recreation Permit Fee on the Wild and Scenic Snake River to September 30, 2016.

“Since being published in the Federal Register on June 22, we have received significant input associated with the fee proposal,” said Wallowa Mountains Office, Deputy District Ranger Jake Lubera. “We have heard ideas associated with; alternative fee structures, the use of the facilities and the willingness from many individuals and groups to help address the stewardship needs of the river. Other boaters have commented on their limited use in the Scenic river section, and concerns about the impacts of a permit fee for families. To honor this active public process as well as provide additional time, we would like boaters and other interested publics to continue to comment until the end of September,” said Lubera.

Public input can be submitted at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/SnakeRiverPublicInput . Following the close of the public input period on September 30, remarks will be made available for review on the WWNF website. After that time, the WWNF will analyze the input for presentation to the Resource Advisory Council. No decision regarding the fee proposal has been made at this time.

This proposed Special Recreation Permit Fee ranges from \$5 to \$10, depending on public input received. If implemented, it would be, a per-person, per-trip that is collected from all boaters and passengers during the primary river season. Exemptions to the proposal would be outfitters and their employees, travel by land owners and guests to private land inholding; and any person who has right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under specific provisions of treaty or law. The proposed fee would be used to help provide a sustainable funding source for stewardship of the Wild and Scenic Snake River such as improving maintenance of developed facilities and historic sites used for recreation, expanding interpretation, addressing health and safety concerns and providing extra river patrols.

For more information, questions or to submit input about any of these new fee proposals, please contact Jake Lubera, Deputy District Ranger, Wallowa Mountains Office at 541-426-5581 or jlubera@fs.fed.us or Mike Ball, River Manager, Clarkston Office at 509-758-0616 or and comments-pacificnorthwest-wallowa-whitman@fs.fed.us Please visit the 2016 Wild and Scenic Snake River Fee Proposal website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/WildScenicSnakeRiverProposedFee to submit input and thank you for participating in this public sensing process.



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