Congressmen Walden and Blumenauer's Mt. Hood Legislation

RECREATION

- Approximately 4 million people per year visit the Mt. Hood National Forest, and recreational visits are expected to almost double by 2040. Half of the annual visitors use the services of Forest Service's recreational partners – special use permittees, campground concessionaires, and ski areas.

- To enhance the Mt. Hood National Forest's recreational opportunities, develop new trails, and maintain infrastructure, the bill:
    - Creates a demonstration program that enables the Mt. Hood National Forest to retain unobligated fees from special use authorizations. No new recreational user fees are authorized. The forest would retain approximately $750,000 per year under this demonstration program.
    - Establishes a Recreational Advisory Council (members listed below) specific to the Mt. Hood National Forest to advise the Forest Service on planning for future recreation enhancements and dispersal of the retained funds.

- Summer non-mechanized recreation, such as hiking.
- Winter non- mechanized recreation, such as snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.
- Mountain biking.
- Hunting and fishing.
- Summer motorized recreation, such as off-highway vehicle user.
- Local environmental groups.
- Winter motorized recreation, such as snowmobiling.
- Permitted ski areas
- Forest products industry.
- Affected Indian tribes.
- Local government interests, such as a county commissioner or city mayor.
- A resident of Government Camp.
- State of Oregon.

- The bill will also create additional recreational opportunities by asking the Forest Service to determine, where appropriate, Forest Service roads slated for closure or decommissioning that could be adapted for other recreational opportunities. In addition to enhancing recreation on the Mountain in an environmentally friendly way, this will help the Forest Service address the thousands of miles of roads they cannot afford to maintain or fully decommission.

- The bill provides an opportunity for the Forest Service to work with partners to design and construct a trail suitable for use by persons with disabilities.

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