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Central Violations Bureau  
P.O. Box 780549  
San Antonio, TX 78278-0549

June 25, 2009

I am writing to request a court date to contest the trail fee parking violation # **F 3636406** which I received at the Cedar Creek trail head outside of Mazama, WA on May 31, 2009. I am contesting the \$75 ticket, and the ethics of charging the public a fee to access public lands, based on research I conducted on this issue in late 2007. My conclusion is that the trail fee pass law (aka, The Recreation Enhancement Act, or REA) is unethical and unfairly burdens working families that live in the vicinity of our national forests.

Multiple research efforts have concluded that recreational fees reduce the ability of low income families to access public lands by nearly 50%. A similar outcome occurred in Washington State where state parks that charged parking fees saw up to an 80% reduction in visitation, particularly in remote areas most frequented by local families. The Washington State Park fee was rescinded by our legislature for this reason. The REA should be overruled as well.

In addition, newly appointed U.S. Forest Service Chief, Tom Tidwell, has indicated that he plans to focus, in part, on “reaching out to children to make them more aware of and comfortable with national forests.”<sup>1</sup> The REA is in conflict with this intent, as it creates a financial burden many working families can not afford, particularly under current economic conditions. Given concerns around such issues as nature deficit disorder, and the alarming rate of obesity in our children, the federal government should not be creating more burdens for low-income families to access our national forests by imposing additional fees on land for which the public is already taxed. This law has unintended consequences that deserve further consideration.

A complete copy of my research can be found in the attached document entitled, *Trail Fee Passes on National Forests: The Ethical Debate*, and is also on my web site listed above under “Graduate Research.” Would you please be so kind as to pass on a copy of the attached document to the judge that will be presiding over my hearing, so that he or she can better understand the rationale around my refusal to pay this fee?

Thank you in advance for your time.

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<sup>1</sup> *Wenatchee World* Brief, June 19, 2009, p. A4

Sincerely,

Kristi Laguzza-Boosman  
Citizen, The Methow Valley

Cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rogers

Attachment: Research document