

BUFFALO BULLETIN

www.buffalobulletin.com

OPINION > LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking fees are nothing like fees for camping

Print Page

Published:
Wednesday, December 30, 2009 10:46 AM CST

In your December 25 article ("Remove, Reword, Repost") about the planned \$10/day parking fee at the West Tensleep trailhead, District Ranger Mark Booth stated that trailhead parking fees are the same as campground fees.

Ranger Booth is quite wrong. A trailhead parking fee is nothing like a campground fee. A campground fee entitles one to exclusive use of a campsite and nearby access to things like a table and a toilet that you will certainly need and use during an overnight stay. A trailhead parking fee only gets you a place to leave your car while you and an unlimited number of others share dispersed access to the undeveloped backcountry, in this case a designated wilderness where no facilities are provided or allowed.

Even if there are "amenities" at the trailhead, you leave them behind as soon as you begin using what you came there to use: the trail and the backcountry.

In this case, the "removed" and "reworded" notice had already been "reposted" before the article even appeared.

It's in the Dec. 23 Federal Register, and even though they can't legally charge for parking it's still a parking fee.

The law says you can't be charged solely for parking, or for access to undeveloped backcountry, regardless of what facilities are located at the trailhead.

This planned fee would be an outrageous violation of the law by the Forest Service, and I can't believe the citizens of Wyoming will stand for it. Please contact Senators Barrasso and Enzi and Rep. Lummis and tell them to stop this illegal fee.

More information about what the law does and does not allow is at www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org.

Kitty Benzar

Durango, Colo.

Copyright © 2009 - Buffalo Bulletin

[x] Close Window