I just can't help but wonder what exactly is up in American Fork Canyon this year that was not there last year to justify doubling the access fee to $6? That is a bunch of money for a ride to view the summit, a stop for lunch along a stream, and maybe a short hike to take a few pictures.

Mirror Lake Highway has also doubled to $6, and again, what is there now, versus last year, that justifies doubling the charge for citizens to visit their own public land?

Congress wrote a law that permits charging a fee for certain amenities but specifically exempted activities for which the Forest Service may not charge, such as stopping along the road, using scenic pullouts, hiking and camping in undeveloped areas, and simply sitting next to a stream on a hot summer day.

Yet the Forest Service has ignored the law and charges entrance fees, regardless of what you intend to do in the area.

John Brush

West Valley City

(c) 2008 Deseret News (Salt Lake City). Provided by ProQuest Information and Learning. All rights Reserved.