

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/17/2018 3:26:15 AM

First name: Holly

Last name: Stokely

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Holly Stokely. I am a current junior at West Virginia University majoring in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources. I was excited to see a public commenting period for this parking lot proposal for Blue Pool. This past summer, I worked with West Virginia University and the USFS doing National Visitor Use Monitoring in the Willamette National Forest. I visited Blue Pool many times through the summer. Some for work, some for personal hikes.

Every single time I worked, people ran out of parking. During my visitor satisfaction sections of the surveys, it seemed almost every group had a complaint about parking.

When I went there on my own time, I had the same problem. People would park so far away that the hike wasn't enjoyable looking back.

I understand the concern of others. Some may say this will encourage others to come to the trail, causing a crowding issue. While this may be the case, it is already extremely crowded and people won't stop coming. The trail crews are aware of the popularity and keep the trail well maintained. An easy fix would indeed, be to add more parking.

I really do see the need for a parking lot. This issue is a big one, and hope it can be addressed accordingly.

Sincerely,

Holly Stokely