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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project fee proposal

Cob Staines

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

Hello,

I am a Northern California resident, outdoor educator, and regular forest service recreation user. I am passionate about responsible recreation, and can appreciate the need for permits to regulate and in some cases limit access to sensitive ecosystems. I do not believe that simple fee-based systems are socially just, however. Instead, these systems of permitting create additional preferential barriers for day and overnight users with lower income. Further consideration should be made in this proposal to ensure that permitting does not indirectly discriminate based on user income.

Planning ahead with access to internet is a privilege that comes with wealth. Rather than assume that all users have equal access to online permitting, a portion of permits should be held for walk-up, first come first serve availability. Furthermore, the Forest Service should consider an annual pass or volunteer pass to remove undue limitations and financial burden for individuals who frequent the permitted areas and support stewardship.

I appreciate the time you have put into this proposal, and I believe that, with some well-placed adjustments to address inadvertent income discrimination, this system can serve the needs of the Forest Service while being socially just.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Cob Staines