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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Timothy Maly

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

As someone who has greatly enjoyed hiking and climbing in the Central Cascades, I am concerned about the proposal to implement a reservation-only, quota-limited, fee-based permit system even for day use in this special area. The Forest Service should implement other, less restrictive management tools prior to implementing limited-entry day-use permits. Examples include educational programs focused on leave no trace practices, administrative signage, revegetation and restoration projects to address areas of concern, and installation of toilet facilities and/or wag bag stations to address human waste issues. If the Forest Service decides to move ahead with a permit system, it would be better to have a quota for overnights, but keep day use unlimited (like in Desolation Wilderness in the Lake Tahoe, CA area). If that is not feasible, then a portion of permits should be held for walk-up, first come first serve availability to allow climbers to attempt summits during good weather windows, which decreases potential weather-related accidents and the chances of getting lost, both of which result in increased search and rescue missions within Wilderness areas. Finally, the Forest Service should partner with County and State officials to address parking issues at trailheads. Managing and enforcing parking would self-limit the number of people on trail systems.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Sincerely,

Timothy Maly