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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Skye Stoury

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Seattle, WA 98117

November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Though I do not live in Oregon, I recreate in these areas regularly and believe strongly that everyone should be able to recreate here as well. I am a rock climber, hiker, and backpacker. My time spent outside has a positive effect on my well being, and has helped me become an advocate for our public lands. With all of the new people joining the outdoor community everyday, we need a way to make usage more accessible for them, and provide more education (rangers) while they are out. I would much rather see rangers on the trails talking with and educating those outside, rather than patrolling parking lots.

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. 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. The new quota-based fee structure for limited-entry day-use permits and overnight users, would restrict climbing access and create more barriers for low-income communities.

Recreation within Deschutes and Willamette National Forests' Wilderness areas has a positive impact on local Oregon communities. Many citizens choose to reside in places like Bend for the accompanying quality of life and the health benefits of outdoor recreation, including climbing, hiking, backcountry skiing, trail running, and other human-powered Wilderness-based activities. Burdensome and limited-entry permit systems could have an unintended economic impact on rural communities, local businesses, and the greater Oregon tourism economy.

Sincerely,

Skye Stoury