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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Michael Myers
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November 20, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Hello,

I understand the Forest Service's position, which I'm sure feels like your being backed into a corner with the increased use of our surrounding areas. I implore the Forest Service to first explore alternatives before taking the drastic measure of restricting access by implementing a permit system. The use of less restrictive management tools prior to implementing limited-entry day-use such as 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, would be a start.

Also, if donation boxes or good faith fee boxes were at the trailheads you'd likely see contributions to help keep those trails open. Pushing the permit system to these areas will also concentrate those unable to secure permits in other areas like Hood, Rainier, below TL on St. Helens or wherever folks can find a non-permitted area.

Open and expansive access to the wilderness is one of the reasons I've lived in Oregon for over a decade. I'd hate to see that reason dissolve by requiring a six month scheduling for a camping spot or a hike. Like Yosemite or trying to reserve a fire tower, it's almost not even worth trying.

Please try alternatives first.

Sincerely,
Michael Myers