

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/20/2019 9:34:10 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Vandy Hall

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November 20, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

As a hiker and climber who makes less than \$12,000 per year, I live below poverty level. I depend on affordable outdoor opportunities to make my life bearable - it's the time I get outdoors that helps me manage my chronic illness, stay active even when I'm not feeling good, and manage the mental and emotional health issues that come along with chronic migraine and crohns disease. Implementing a heavy-handed fee structure would effectively bar me from many of the places I can currently safely travel for recreation which is not just important for my enjoyment, but for my health.

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 and users like myself.

The Forest Service should implement other, less restrictive management tools prior to implementing limited-entry day-use permits. This should be a last resort, not a first go-to.

Examples of stratagies include:

*educational programs focused on leave no trace practices

*administrative signage

*revegetation and restoration projects to address areas of concern

*installation of toilet facilities and/or wag bag stations to address human waste issues.

If an additional permit system must be implamented, a portion of any permits should also 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.

The Forest Service should consider an annual pass or volunteer pass to remove undue limitations and financial burden for individuals like me, 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.

Thank you for your consideration,
Vandy Hall