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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Masaru Podgorny
3601 Murworth Dr
Houston, TX 77025

November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in regards to the proposal for restricted day use permits in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests. I do not believe that this would be a good way to go forward.

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.

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.

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.

Thanks you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Masaru Podgorny