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First name: Jean

Last name: Goldsborough

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Proposed Strategy - Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Jean Goldsborough

P.O. Box 184

Readin, VT 05062

November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the decision made to manage visitor and recreational use of areas within the Central Cascades. While I am discouraged to hear that use has contributed to issues of trail impact, human and dog waste, etc, I feel there are other strategies that should be considered before restricting access through a paid day use or overnight use permitting system.

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. These strategies have proven beneficial in other high use areas throughout the country.

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. To alleviate parking concerns, the Forest Service could partner with County and State officials to address problem parking at trailheads. Managing and enforcing parking would self-limit the number of people on trail systems.

Thanks for listening to my concerns and reconsidering the strategy for enforcing the decision made to restrict use in such a dramatic way.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Goldsborough