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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

ROSIE WILT
197 MADISON ST
NEW YORK, NY 10002

November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Hello,

I strongly urge you to reconsider your new permit system plan. There are so many important reasons why this type of system is damaging and harmful. For starters: 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.

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.

Instead, 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.

Please reconsider your position and work toward a more democratic solution for all.

Sincerely,
ROSIE WILT