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First name: Kayla
Last name: Warner
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Kayla Warner
1168 14th Street
Astoria, OR 97103

November 20, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Oregon has opened my eyes to natural mental health therapy when I needed it the most. I most the Astoria, Oregon in 2014 to serve an AmeriCorps VISTA year. My only way of truly staying happy was hiking. As a low-income volunteer, access to the natural world truly saved me. I felt depressed and anxious often; I was far from family and making $12,000/year. I would not be able to afford hiking if the Forest Service were to charge people to access these majestic areas of Oregon. I also work directly with lower-income audiences and with the rates of obesity skyrocketing for children and adults, outdoor play is a huge factor in reducing obesity rates and supporting well-being. Please do not take that away from the people of Oregon.
I completely understand the issue and that Central Oregon (as well as the Pacific North West, in general) has become extremely popular.
I would propose a portion of permits should 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. I also would propose giving first access to any permits to residents of Oregon. This would deter non-residents to travel and congest the area.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kayla Warner