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Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Guy Wettstein
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November 20, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

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.

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.

As a new climb leader with the Mazamas, I find myself struggling to understand how I'm going to lead climbs in these areas going forware. We do A LOT of education, not just for safety in the mountains but for LNT principles as well. We also strive to be as courteous and helpful to others as possible. In my opinion, overuse or volume of people is second to the fact that too many people don't know how or are unwilling to behave properly in the wilderness. I fail to see how this new permit system would weed out the people who behave poorly. In fact, it seems like it would limit the examples of people behaving well and reduce the opportunities for volunteer groups to do the critical LNT education in the wilderness where it really counts.

Sincerely,
Guy Wettstein