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First name: William

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

William Davis

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Salem, OR 97302

November 20, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Good Day,

I am the climb school coordinator and a leader for a Salem-based outdoor club, where we train 45 climbers per year utilizing approximately 65 volunteers. I myself am a volunteer and pick up trash for a living as a commercial collection driver, so get it that people are messy. Yet, this system is so unprecedented, expensive and broad, it will cause hardship to continue our efforts in teaching stewardship to an ever growing climbing community. The below are points that I 100% support as presented by the Access Fund. However, I also would greatly support a system like Adams or Shasta, where numbers are not capped but rather fees are assessed AND enforced to handle the growing numbers at hubs like South Sister, to lessen the displacement impact of those that just want the Instagram post.

The Forest Service should partner with County and State officials to address parking issues at trailheads. Managing and enforcing parking would self-limit the number of people on trail systems. 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 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 consider an annual pass or volunteer pass to remove undue limitations and financial burden for individuals who frequent the permitted areas and support stewardship. 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.

Sincerely,

William Davis, A.K.A. Billy Bob