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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Brooke Colburn

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November 21, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in hopes that the Forest Service will drop the proposed fees and restricted access plans for the wilderness areas in Central Oregon. I am a Central Oregon resident, and I do acknowledge that many trails and parking areas are busy during peak summer months, but I don't think this is the right way to solve the problem.

I am concerned that people with young families and busy jobs won't be able to reserve permits so far in advance because of unpredictable schedules, and then young children and the working class would have less access to the public wilderness lands. And the fee structure (on top of the taxes and parking permits we already pay) will make it more difficult for lower income families to benefit from our public lands. Please consider other solutions.

I lived in Norway for a year, where being in the outdoors is a large part of the culture. Their values hold that the public land should be available and accessible to all. I saw everyone from toddlers to the elderly in my community recreating in the outdoors, and it was wonderful. Along with their enjoyment of their wilderness land, the Norwegian people are educated in leave-no-trace practices. I think more education of the public coming to use our lands could help with some of the problems in the wilderness areas.

Another solution could be to have better management of parking areas. Set limits on where cars are allowed to park and eliminate the overflow parking that happens along roads, and that would automatically reduce the impact on trails and wilderness areas.

Thank you for considering the input from all of us who love our wilderness areas.

Sincerely,

Brooke Colburn