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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Strategy Project

To whom it may concern:

The proposed permits and fees for the Central Cascades are prohibitive for students and other low-income groups and do not allow for planning around the quickly changing weather that is characteristic of the mountains. I hike, trail run, and mountaineer in the Sisters, Jefferson, and Washington wildernesses several times per year (each), and usually only have a destination pinned down within a few days of the trip, because visits are weather-dependent at alpine altitudes.

It is already a financial strain to buy the NW Forest Pass as a student, and the proposed fees and rigid reservation system will force myself and many others to choose between going out in poor conditions to make the most of our permits, thereby increasing the likelihood of needing a rescue, and wasting the permit we struggled to afford in the first place, to wait for safer conditions. The proposed permit system and fees are discriminatory and do not allow for shorter-notice, weather-based planning.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Bishop
(Corvallis, OR)