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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comments regarding Nov 12 mtg on new permit fee for Central Cascade Wilderness

To whom it may concern,

The following comments are in regards to the Nov 12 meeting regarding the USFS proposed special recreation permit fee for the Central Cascades Wilderness.

I will be interested to hear more about the "volunteer pass" when more information becomes available. A couple of questions about this type of pass:
1) Will a person who holds a "volunteer pass" be able to take the same number of people (4-5) with them on a permit trail as a "regular pass"?
2) Will a person who holds a "volunteer pass" be able to purchase a "regular pass" for a specific date, so as to be able to take a larger group on a specific hike?
3) How many "volunteer passes" will be issued by the Forest Service? Will this pass have an expiration date? Will the volunteer have to reapply for the permit at any given time interval?

At the meeting, it was mentioned that a person who purchases a "permit" may take a small number of people with them on the specific trail, probably 4-5. The current limit on Wilderness area trails is 12 people. This change to 4-5 people is going to have a drastic impact on hiking clubs and family outings.
1) Most hiking clubs have more than 4-5 people attend any given hike. With groups being used to the current limit of 12, dropping to 4-5 means that the 19 trails will be off limits. Please consider raising the number from 4-5, instead to 7-8. This would allow most hiking clubs to continue to enjoy the impacted trails.
2) Could several people within a hiking club purchase permits for a specific date, and hike together so as to get closer to the current Wilderness area limit of 12 people?

Thank you,
Wendy Vandam

Sent from my iPad