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Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Nicholas Abel

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

I, just as much as any avid user of the outdoors, recognize the burden we as user of the outdoors are having on it. I see the explosive popularity of hiking and climbing and the impact it's been having on our trail heads and crags. Growing up on the outskirts of Seattle and having been visiting Central Oregon since I was a kid, I know how crowded our parking lots are, and how beaten down our trails and vegetation is. And I know our Federal, State, and Local managers have neither the numbers nor the funding to keep up.

The thing is, I know all of this, and I also know a quota system won't work. Quotas don't protect, nor educate, the only discriminate. So many of us only get to enjoy our time outside in small spurts. We've busy lives, and getting out to the back-country is sometime the thing that keeps us going. Juggling permits won't keep us away, it will only frustrate us, and create barriers between us and the land, and the land managers, that will make future management harder.

Personally, I would suggest 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.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Abel