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Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

David Rempel

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November 22, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

In a continuation of my previous email:

3. Although a wilderness-level designation system exists, too broad a brush has been applied to higher-level designations at the expense of citizens. Places like Marion Lake should have accessibility increased and camping sites developed/expanded beyond the current level of almost nothing. This is one of the gateway experiences that should be expanded and encouraged rather than strangled.

4. The current system of reservations is so far out and demands a level of expertise which:

a. Is wasteful of reservations slots as plans change--i.e., In the real world, slots go unused and/or cannot be shifted to meet contingent demands .

b. My experience is that some highly popular locations require a bureaucratic/techno-savvy only developed by repeated use by professional guides and/or highly involved climbers/hikers. It penalizes novices who miss out in getting slots because they "did not know the game." E.g., Obsidian Trail pretty much requires getting a password ahead of time and being ready/familiar with the Recreation.gov website right at 10:00 a.m. (PT) on May 1st to get a weekend hike/climb--by 10:20 a.m., most of the weekend/prime time slots are gone. Being able to enjoy the wilderness should not be the sole territory of professionals and eco-geeks.

Sincerely,

David Rempel