Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/30/2019 9:25:20 PM
First name: Tom
Last name: Freeman
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comments regarding proposed wilderness trailhead permitting and fee system

The purpose of this email is to state my opposition to the permitting and fees proposed for day hiking in the Three Sisters, Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Washington wilderness areas. While I understand the need to limit the number of overnight backpackers, and to charge a fee to administer a backpacking quota system, I do not see a need for quotas that apply to day hiking. Day hikers do not establish a camp and hence are much easier on wilderness resources. In my opinion the primary impact of increased numbers of day hikers is reduced solitude. The solution for those who truly value solitude is to simply find a less crowded trail.

I have hiked and backpack throughout the United States and am not aware of quotas/fees required for day hiking in other wilderness areas or national park, with the exception of the Sierra's Mt. Whitney and Half Dome, where quotas are in place primarily due to safety considerations on trails that are essentially climbs. The proposed Willamette/Deschutes plan would establish an unfortunate precedent in limiting access to public areas that the Wilderness Act intended be preserved for the publics' responsible enjoyment. I also feel that the plan is unenforceable, as day hikers opposed to the unprecedented and in their mind unnecessary quotas will simply exercise their right to enjoy a day in the wilderness regardless.

Thomas Freeman
2645 SE 58th Ave.
Portland, OR 97206