

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2022 6:22:31 PM

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Comments: I love the idea of this trail and myself would look forward to using it. Yet, I have reservations about the large impact it will ultimately entail. Last year, we hiked the Washington PCT and saw first hand the impact it has on the land. With this new trail traversing some rare true natural resources left, I wonder if the trail management can adequately protect against its huge impact. I am notably concerned about impacting the Grizzly Recovery Areas, but also the general impact of campsites and poor sanitation practices, plus bringing larger crowds to a narrow corridor. Once this trail is more fully established, it will only get more popular and draw increasing crowds. There is a huge demand for this - but in that demand lay the roots of its degradation. Sad but true.

When computing the maximum carrying capacity, I wonder if you consider that many folks do section hiking. Most people cannot afford multiple months away. There maybe more folks doing section hikes than undertake the full trail. How will Section hikers be managed, limited, or managed? Further, there are day hikers to consider too.

Surely in the official areas like the NPs, camping restrictions will apply and thus be a limiting factor. But outside there are few limits. When hiking through the North Cascades NP on the PCT from Stehekin, it is difficult to plan camping, as few sites are available. And most PCT hikers cannot predict until late, just which particular day they will be crossing the NP.

I am sure you all have thought about all these issues. But I at least wanted to voice my concerns. I assume the creation of this trail is all but a given at this point. Yet, a small voice in my head wonders why we cannot just leave some areas alone and dedicated to the wild things. We are just going to intrude on every last existing square mile. In that case, I just hope we manage it better than we have done on the PCT.

Paul Bouche