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Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

David Brannen

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

A portion of permits should be held for walk-up, first come first serve availability to allow climbers to attempt summits during good weather windows, which decreases potential weather-related accidents and the chances of getting lost, both of which result in increased search and rescue missions within Wilderness areas. This is a big problem with the permit aspect of Half-Dome in Yosemite. By implementing the permitting system, people feel pressured to attempt a summit on the day approved for a permit, thereby increasing the likelihood of an accident or injury.

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. The Forest Service should partner with County and State officials to address parking issues at trail heads. Managing and enforcing parking would self-limit the number of people on trail systems.

Sincerely,

David Brannen