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Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Brice Pollock

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

The quota based system out in the California Sierra heavily limits the ease of climbers to visit high Sierra peaks as they compete with backpackers and other more mainstream users.

The new quota-based fee structure for limited-entry day-use permits and overnight users, would restrict climbing access and create more barriers for low-income communities.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Brice Pollock