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Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

I'm happy to see new measure for management of these beautiful wildernesses. I do think there are alternative measures that are less extreme and would achieve the same goals of reducing the impact on the resource while having less unintended consequences that I see the proposed actions having, specifically;

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 and individuals. I think the Forest Service could implement other, less restrictive management tools prior to implementing limited-entry day-use permits.

Examples include educational programs focused on leave no trace practices, administrative signage, revegetation and restoration projects to address areas of concern, and installation of toilet facilities and/or wag bag stations to address human waste issues. I have seen this work successfully around the country at popular climbing areas near large population centers.

I would also love to see a portion of permits 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.

Thanks for considering these ideas. I look forward to seeing how The Forest Service continues to work with the public to find solutions to issues that impact users and land managers alike. Thanks for all your hard work in that process!

Sincerely,

joe cleinmark