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First name: felix

Last name: danila

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

felix danila

3611 28th ave

ASTORIA, NY 11103

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

I believe that implementing a 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 it is a easy but shortsighted option for dealing with the real issue of overuse and environmental impacts on the Wilderness areas.

Some better options that should be considered are implementing limited-entry first come first served day-use permits (that would 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), 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.

The Forest Service should also consider an annual pass or volunteer pass to remove undue limitations and financial burden for individuals who frequent the permitted areas and support stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Felix Danila