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First name: Steven

Last name: Trent

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Steven Trent

928 310th st NE

Stanwod, WA 98292

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

The new quota-based fee structure proposal for limited-entry day-use permits and overnight users would restrict climbing access. Climbing decisions are based on the current weather and conditions and are sometimes made the night prior. A better solution would be not to limit the access but institute the fee to determine how that affects user-ship. The fee structure needs to include an option for last minute, past normal working hours access and payment.

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 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.

Sincerely,

Steven Trent