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First name: Erin

Last name: Fitz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Erin Fitz

251 Barter Drive

Abingdon, VA 24210

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

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.

While I do believe regulation of our recreation is an important part of management, greater consideration is necessary in making decision. Who will be affected and how? Who will still have access? Who will be excluded? Management should focus on inclusion- both in decision making and ensuring access to enjoy and share outdoor spaces and wonders.

Sincerely,

Erin Fitz