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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Scott Blanchard

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

I'm writing to express my views on the proposed quota-based fee system to access wilderness areas within Deschutes and Willamette National Forests' Wilderness areas. As a climber, I feel 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 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.

Regards,

Scott Blanchard