Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/18/2019 7:18:30 PM
First name: Nicholas
Last name: Dalessio
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Nicholas Dalessio
PO Box 922
Girdwood, AK 99587

November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Access to public land is vital for the people of the United States and all visitors from around the world. Outdoor recreation is extremely important to the economy and well being of all people whether they use it or not.

Recreation within Deschutes and Willamette National Forests' Wilderness areas has a positive impact on local Oregon communities. Many citizens choose to reside in places like Bend for the accompanying quality of life and the health benefits of outdoor recreation, including climbing, hiking, backcountry skiing, trail running, and other human-powered Wilderness-based activities. Burdensome and limited-entry permit systems could have an unintended economic impact on rural communities, local businesses, and the greater Oregon tourism economy.

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.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.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Dalessio