

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/20/2019 4:04:34 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Byron Zick

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Denver, CO 80203

November 20, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Recreation within Deschutes and Willamette National Forests' Wilderness areas is a unique feature of the Oregonian lifestyle. Many citizens choose to reside in Oregon for a great quality of life and the health benefits of outdoor recreational activities. The proposed revisions to the permitting 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 consider an annual pass or volunteer pass to remove undue limitations and financial burden for individuals who frequent the permitted areas and support stewardship. A portion of permits should also 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.

Thank you for considering my comments, and I sincerely hope you take them under consideration.

Sincerely,
Byron Zick