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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Patrick Dyson

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November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment!

Please reconsider the structure of your trailhead program and work with the Access fund and Leavenworth Mountain Association to accommodate climbers needs. Climbers are often the best stewards of the trails and mountains - volunteering for trail days, cleaning up, and generally practicing low impact use.

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. 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.

Sincerely,

Patrick Dyson