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First name: Peter

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Peter Rawlings

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November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

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. 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 Forest Service should partner with County and State officials to address parking issues at trailheads. Managing and enforcing parking would self-limit the number of people on trail systems. The Forest Service should partner with County and State officials to address parking issues at trailheads. Managing and enforcing parking would self-limit the number of people on trail systems.

Sincerely,

Peter Rawlings