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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

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November 19, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

I do *\*not\** support the current wilderness permit proposal.

While I applaud the intent to reduce impact on our public lands I implore you to consider revising, or waiting to implement the permit system as currently proposed.

- 1) I think it unduly limits the public access to these areas
- 2) I think it greatly limits climbers access to these areas, and climbers are a small subset of the public.
- 3) I think it will increase accidents as climbers feel forced to use their limited permits, rather than wait for a good weather window.
- 4) Permit Fees add one more financial barrier to the general public to access their lands. Thus far, I personally can afford this, but not everyone can. Honestly, what is the solution for people on a very tight budget?
- 5) I believe it will negatively impact the area's tourism. As an example, by requiring permits I will have fewer opportunities to climb and thus I will travel to central Oregon far less and spent far fewer dollars in those communities.

Alternatives to consider:

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 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 reading.

Sincerely,  
Justin Colquhoun