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First name: Steve

Last name: Ross

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Steve Ross

926 Galloway Rd

Stamping Ground, KY 40379

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Dear Willamette National Forest,

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 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. 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.

As an experienced winter and summer climber on North, Middle and South Sister, Mt Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and all the other Oregon peaks multiple times solo or with groups or leading training climbs with organizations, we need the ability to plan ahead on organized climbs or take advantage of good weather to climb. The increase in popularity of mountaineering is leading to an erosion of the quality of the experience- however, in the past wilderness rangers and shelters were helpful. There needs to be education and a less draconian method to start. Hopefully the American Alpine Club has provided data you can use and would like to invite the administrators to take part in climbs in the areas they regulate

Regards,

Steve Ross