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Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Barry Weitzner

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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 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.

Sincerely,

Barry Weitzner