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First name: Robin
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Robin Knupp
1 Hickory Dr
Fletcher, NC 28732

November 18, 2019

Dear Willamette National Forest,

My husband and I will soon be moving into a 5th wheel and planned on spending extended time in your area. If you pass the proposed restrictions, we will have less reason to spend our money there. We do lots of trail work here in NC and plan to continue giving back while we are on the road. We have several friends in the Bend area who also do trail work and hike these trails in all seasons.

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 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,
Robin Knupp