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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Central Cascades Wilderness Project

Scott Campbell

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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.

A system such as this would likely increase the amount of emergency resources used as it would encourage individuals to plan trips without all the necessary information. Climbers typically 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.

I've personally utilized many of the trails that could have limited entry in the near future. While they are busy at peak times, I've rarely seen the damage that is being advertised as a push to justify the limited entry system. In addition, I've seen very little effort to implement less drastic actions that wouldn't have a negative impact on both the outdoor community and local businesses that will inevitably feel the brunt of this.

The Forest Service should implement other, less restrictive management tools as an alternative 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.

Thanks for your time and considering my concerns surrounding this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Campbell