

To whom it may concern,

The Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance (PPCA) was established in 2014 and has worked for the last 10 years to represent the climbing community of the Pikes Peak region. We would like to thank the USFS for recognizing the PPCA as a stakeholder in the Lower North-South Vegetation Management project.

The area in the proposed Lower North-South Vegetation Management project has been well loved and well used by the Colorado climbing community since the 1960s and possibly further. This area, generally referred to as the South Platte by the climbing community, is loved for its solitude, its endless granite dome slabs and cracks, and its adventurous nature. The proposed project will affect how climbers access these areas in the immediate future, as well as how these areas appear for years to come.

After reviewing the available project documents and maps, the Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance has the following questions and comments.

Questions

- What is the platform that the USFS will use to make the PPCA and the public aware of any road closures in the affected areas?
- What is the platform that the USFS will use to make the PPCA and the public aware of any controlled burns? Our concern is that a controlled burn may become an uncontrolled burn and possibly strand or harm climbers and other users.
- The plan will undoubtedly displace many recreationists to other nearby areas. Has any thought been given to expanding access to camping, hiking, etc. in the areas surrounding the Lower North-South area?

Comments

- The PPCA is committed to its ongoing partnership with the USFS and all land managers that we interact with on behalf of the climbing community of the Pikes Peak region. If the USFS needs assistance in communicating with the climbing community, or volunteers for a specific issue related to the affected climbing areas, please let us know. We will provide a point of contact.
- The climbing in the affected areas is dispersed, and not well documented. Certain popular areas that we know will be affected include: Devil's Head, Cynical Pinnacle, Buffalo Creek, and Rampart Range Road North
- Please consider that trees near cliff faces are well loved by climbers for the shade that they provide, especially on the south facing aspects where the sun is more prominent. Any extra consideration for preserving these trees and cliff faces would be appreciated.

Regards,

Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance, Board of Directors