

Dear District Ranger Mike Thom,

I am a 73 year old woman who has lived in the Rocky Mountain West for 53 years, in Wyoming 23 of those years. I have always been active outdoors, and I still am. Some places are almost unrecognizable from when I used them decades ago. I make every effort to minimize my impact on public lands, and therefore would like others to make similar considerations. Although I am not a climber, I know many who are, and I have witnessed firsthand the "pounding" that climbing areas take from overuse. That includes my handful of visits to Tensleep Canyon. I am in agreement with the following four suggestions that have been added below for the draft EA plan. Of course, the climbing community must have a say in this plan, but they need to defer to the data and accumulated knowledge that is needed to manage Tensleep Canyon and keep it as pristine as possible. What a treasure this place is! Wyoming must make every effort to preserve it's beauty and wildness.

The efforts of the Bighorn National Forest (BNF) Powder River Ranger District and its planning team to move the Tensleep Climbing Management Plan process forward are laudable and greatly appreciated. The recently released Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is a welcome step to help land managers balance access, safety, sustainable recreation, and protection of natural resources in this world-class climbing destination.

Overall, the Proposed Action you outline in the Draft EA will be overwhelmingly positive. With that said, there is some room to strengthen the proposal:

- 1) With the official designation of the Leigh Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) last year, the management proposal to close routes and user trails that currently exist within this (RNA) is appropriate. Furthermore, the Powder River Ranger District should develop clear RNA boundary signage as well as educational material to communicate to BNF users where the RNA is, and what the access restrictions protect and how. Recreation of any kind should be managed so as to not diminish the quality of natural resources.
- 2) The proposal to install pit toilets and pet waste stations at designated locations throughout the climbing area is appropriate. Consider installing these pit toilets out of sight of the highway to preserve the infrastructure for BNF users and to avoid them becoming a heavily used, hard to maintain highway pitstop. Additionally, consider the inclusion of human waste bag dispensers at additional popular crags throughout the management area, which has been a successful management intervention in Sinks Canyon climbing destination on Shoshone National Forest.
- 3) Outside of the Leigh Creek RNA please clarify within the Final EA threshold and parameter definitions for the full scope of environmental and cultural impacts, as well as climber safety considerations, that would indicate decisions to either close routes or permit additional routes to be installed. This should include impacts to plants and wildlife, input from the climbing community, and meaningful consultation with local tribes.
- 4) Throughout the Draft EA, the Leigh Creek Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is mentioned only once. In the Final EA please outline the extent to which the Climbing Management Area overlaps with this IRA, and how impacts will be addressed to maintain its roadless character.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and for all the work that is going into this important move to implement a climbing management plan for the Tensleep Canyon that is comprehensive and sustainable.

Sincerely,

Margie Farias

532 S 8th St Lander, WY 82520-3224

[skidream90@gmail.com](mailto:skidream90@gmail.com)

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Sincerely,

Adam Eggleston

360 S Milward Street Jackson WY 83001 Https Unit D Billings, MT 83001

[adamscotteggleston@gmail.com](mailto:adamscotteggleston@gmail.com)

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Sincerely,

Sandra Materi

1600 W Odell Ave Casper, WY 82604-4778

[Luvanimals185@gmail.com](mailto:Luvanimals185@gmail.com)

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Sincerely,

Elena Tillman

133 Amherst Rd South Hadley, MA 01075-1203

[tillman.elena@gmail.com](mailto:tillman.elena@gmail.com)

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Although I do not live in Wyoming, I am a climber and frequent visitor (my sister is a resident).

Sincerely,

Janice Schmidt

11035 Macdonald Ave Conifer, CO 80433-4621

[janandron9@gmail.com](mailto:janandron9@gmail.com)

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Sincerely,

Matt Smith

15077 Romley Rd Nathrop, CO 81236-9761

[mattsmith405@gmail.com](mailto:mattsmith405@gmail.com)

Dear District Ranger Mike Thom,

For over 30 years my family has driven the highway through Tensleep Canyon and have witnessed the explosive change as climbers have discovered it. We appreciate the efforts of the Bighorn National Forest Powder River Ranger District and its planning team to create a Tensleep Climbing Management Plan. The recently released Draft Environmental Assessment is a welcome step to help land managers balance access, safety, sustainable recreation, and protection of natural resources. Thank you for your time, consideration, and for all the work that is going into this important move to implement a climbing management plan for the Tensleep Canyon that is comprehensive and sustainable.

Sincerely,

Edith Heyward

719 Emerson St Sheridan, WY 82801-5215

[ejheyward@hotmail.com](mailto:ejheyward@hotmail.com)