Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/20/2026 9:24:31 PM
First name: JoAnne
Last name: Puckett
Organization: Bighorn Audubon Society
Title: President
Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tensleep Canyon Climbing Management Plan.

We, the Bighorn Audubon Society, respectfully request clarifying language in the final decision for standard implementation of protection of known raptor nesting sites, using restrictions and buffers with species-specific requirements including enforced closures of climbing routes that could interfere with nesting and fledging successes. We request that no additional routes are developed within at least a ½ mile of known raptor nests. Peregrine Falcons and Golden Eagles are known to maintain alternative suitable ledges for nesting in the Canyon, and the presence of Ravens known to also nest on ledges in the Canyon adds to the competition for successful nesting. Disturbances and alterations to habitat and food sources can cause birds to abandon nest sites and alter their migration. Peregrine Falcons and Golden Eagles, like most Tensleep Canyon breeding bird populations, have a strong sense of site fidelity relying on familiar sites for nesting, foraging, shelter, migration, and survival.

Route closures should be determined by the Forest biologist, USFWS, and or WGFD. In cooperation with the Forest biologist, Bighorn Audubon Society volunteers will continue conducting bird surveys and submit reports as we have since 2021.

Intentional protections from access trails, staging areas, and dispersed camping are needed in habitat areas known for sensitive species and species of concern such as Virginia's Warbler and others. We request a copy of the Wildlife Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation Specialist Report for this project, and the Biological Evaluation and Assessment for this project.

Bighorn Audubon has shared concerns for other wildlife, botany, and heritage resources in need of protection. As volunteers we scan the cliffside for avian species and we also take note of possible carved (petroglyphs) or painted (petrograms) figures or designs along the rock face and other possible significant heritage indications and are asked to report any findings to the Forest.

Understanding the multiple uses of the Forest, we must also not lose sight of what makes the Bighorn National Forest exceptional for visitors and locals, that being its beauty, its wildlife and the habitat they need for survival, and its heritage sites - all requiring Forest management's proper protections to exist.

Thank you for your time. On behalf of the Bighorn Audubon Society Board of Directors,

JoAnne Puckett
President
Bighorn Audubon Society
PO Box 535
Sheridan, WY 82801