

July 26, 2021

John Kazmierski

Cumberland District Ranger

Daniel Boone National Forest

2375 KY 801 South

Morehead KY 40351

RE: COMMENT: RED RIVER GORGE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

I am writing to comment on the pending Red River Gorge Management Plan. I support the comments previously submitted to you on July 22, 2021 by Kentucky Heartwood ("KHW") and the Kentucky Resource Council in these regards.

As a resident of southeastern Ohio, I have visited the CLIFTY Wilderness area on multiple occasions, primarily as a hiker (not as a climber or camper). Here, my daughter was first introduced to the skink and various warblers as well as species of trees and shrubs making up the forest. This region is such a treasure that should be preserved and cherished as untrammelled wilderness.

I want to emphasize my support for and my agreement with KHW's recommendations respecting the CLIFTY Wilderness area: designating additional campsites in this area should be rejected as part of the management plan. Campfire pans should be required for any backcountry camping along to minimize the risks of forest fires. Bicycle and equestrian trails can be particularly damaging to the terrain and should be prohibited in riparian terrain, along cliff lines and rock shelters. Existing restrictions on trails should be enforced, not expanded. Development and implementation of a rock-climbing management plan would enhance protection and planning for uses that are competing with wilderness preservation.

Thank you for all opportunities for public notice and comment in connection with the planning process. The public at large cares deeply about preservation of this special wilderness area.

Sincerely,

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