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First name: Daniel

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good Evening,

Please accept this official comment on the proposal on the Red River Gorge Management Planning #59852. I have read the proposal in full, and feel informed to make an opinion on an area so special to me on many levels.

It is clear that Red River Gorge (RRG), is in fact being "loved" to a level unprecedented in any time of my life I can recall. Based upon your statistics, it shows large numbers of people visiting the area which do in fact tax the resources available. I can understand the need for more parking in peak times, or improving watercraft put in areas experiencing erosion. Emotion and feelings aside, this is devoid of any merit in some sense based on several reasons.

I do not understand how a study can outline a taxed forest system that needs to follow an updated LAC recommendation, can completely disregard the fact that there is a large resort attempting to build in the middle of Slade and the RRG. So it seems the proposal will slash campsites, deal with erosion, take away unofficial trails, build picnic tables, fire pits, and have shuttle service for an area that is seeing an influx of people? From what I read, the proposal says nothing of a large scale resort in the text with shuttles and big traffic impact sure to come.

The RRG, DBNF, and Clifty Wilderness needs protection from its largest predators for certain, which is ourselves. Graffiti, trash, noise pollution, illegal fires, and defacing the natural landscapes with carvings of initials, etc. is in fact the problem. More people equal more of these exact problems the proposal will try to eliminate. I think any building of resorts with bus shuttles, tours, etc. might need to be further examined on effects near and far. People will continue to visit the RRG as it is such a special place. Education, enforcement, and engagement from the forest service, visitors, conservationists, as well as businesses is a start to protect the place so many love.

Thank you for allowing my comment to be read, heard, and considered.

Respectfully,

D. Burton