Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/25/2021 10:22:57 PM First name: Andrew Last name: Matthews Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern, the recent explosion of recreational climbing has had a drastic impact on already extremely high traffic areas. This is due to the growing popularity of the red river gorge as a tourist destination and climbing Mecca. The northern gorge is suffering from the amount of new users, it is far past capacity and this needs to be attacked now. I fully support building structures to mitigate erosion at popular areas such as military, left flank and phantasia. However I believe this is only a band aid on the problem. What i propose is opening new forest service land for sport climbing development to help disperse the climbers but also the hikers. There is a large undeveloped parcel of forest land down fixer road by big sinking creek with miles of cliff and beautiful hiking terrain. I support a plan that would encourage development of this land for recreational climbing and hiking. As it stands this area is completely unutilized forest land that could be sustainably developed for climbing and hiking to disperse the massive user groups more effectively. Through the growing climbing community we could provide the manpower through trail days to make this a reality. Given the quality of cliff in this area, it would most definitely attract a large amount of users who would normally be climbing at overrun crags in the northern gorge and disperse them throughout the miles of untouched cliffs far from the north. I believe through sustainable development we could provide the taxpayers with more beautiful amazing hiking and climbing to draw the excessive crowds to a new and equally stunning area that we (taxpayers) already own. I am concerned with all the new users overrunning the popular trails of the north when we already have a whole untouched gorge just down the road. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.