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Comments: As a climber and resident of the Red River gorge region, I am excited to see the review of DBNF management plans and appreciate the opportunity to comment on these actions. These plans follow DBNF's general Forest Plan's direction to maintain and enhance recreation, including climbing. We support sustainable climbing access and the work these plans do to fulfill this Forest Plan direction.

I support the plans for a sustainable trail system and sustainable recreation. I also support providing new system trail access to climbing areas. I do not support decommissioning trails which provide climbing access. Some climbing area access relies on social trails and cross-country travel, so I oppose restriction of non-system access to climbing without site specific consideration involving DBNF, climbing organizations and the climbing community to analyze use and impacts and find balanced management solutions. Use of erosion control is one method of addressing unsustainable impacts at undesignated recreational sites and on non-system trails.

Climbers rely on cliffside access and generally support work and direction outlined in the plan to stabilize, rehabilitate and make resilient these heavily used and highly valuable climbing and recreation sites. I also support DBNF working with RRGCC and Access Fund to prioritize and accomplish work at these highly valued climbing sites. I applaud DBNF for including cliffside access in the plan and creating a framework for stewardship work to improve sustainability and access.

I support the priority these plan's place on partnership to accomplish planning, education and management goals. DBNF should continue to consider RRGCC, Access Fund and the climbing community as partners. This partnership is proven, longstanding, and recorded in both a DBNF and USFS MOU.