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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for your efforts to implement a Climbing Management Plan (CMP) for this important recreational area. Below are my comments and feedback on the Scoping Letter released October 26, 2023.

Parking, Highway and Road Safety - I support the proposed action.

Trails and Climbing Access - I support the proposed action.

Staging Areas - I support the proposed action.

Leigh Creek Research Natural Area - I support the proposed action.

Camping - I support the proposed action.

Health and Human Safety - I support the proposed action.

Outfitter/Guide Use - I support the proposed action.

Geological Resources and Current and Future Route Development - see my comments below:

Proposed Actions:

#1. I support the proposed action, although please see comments below for #4.

#2. I support the proposed action.

#3. I support the proposed action.

#4. I would suggest that areas that have been deemed as overcrowded would benefit from additional routes to help spread people out in those areas. Most of the attractive potential climbs have been developed already in these areas, so we would not be looking at a lot of added potential routes overall.

In areas where there are negative impacts to wildlife, I would propose having seasonal closures as we have in recent years. The climbing community recognizes and supports these types of closures at climbing areas across the country, and as a result is able to avoid negative impacts to the wildlife.

In areas that have been identified as having resource damage, I would suggest that there has never been agreed upon development guidelines in the past, and that the routes in question were developed consistent with climbing development elsewhere in the canyon and region. To retroactively enforce standards and guidelines on pre-existing development does not seem correct in my opinion. Moving forward all new route development should be done in a way that conforms to the newly adopted route development guidelines.

I support not adding new routes in the Leigh Creek Research Natural Area.

#5. I do not support a bolting proposal form or route approval process. This is an overly laborious process to manage. Further many of the visitors to Ten Sleep Canyon are not local residents. They travel here sometimes for only a few days at a time and this process would be restrictive to their goals.

#6. I would like to see the ability for removed and damaged/unsafe routes to be reestablished. Almost without exception, these routes were popular and well received, other than by a small minority group that chose to remove bolts against the consensus wishes of the climbing community. Whatever resource damage was done (if any) during the development of these routes has already been done, and was not in violation of any development guidelines at the time of their development. Further, several of the removed routes had no resource damage of any kind. I would like to see these routes and areas safely reestablished and re-opened to the climbing public for renewed enjoyment.

Please let me know if you would like more information or clarification on any of these comments.

Thank you.