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First name: Mike

Last name: Snyder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am happy to see a climbing management plan implemented in Ten Sleep Canyon. Many concerns for resource management have been addressed and should help to alleviate the impacts of increased use and visitation of the canyon by climbers. My concerns are with placing climbing specific management tasks with land managers who know very little about climbing and are not equipped to police such activities.

Parking, Highway, and Road Safety:

I support the proposed actions.

The addition of a large new parking area near the Mondo and Valhalla crags is an excellent way to alleviate the issues of overcrowding and parking on the side of the highway.

Trails and Climbing Areas:

I support the proposed actions.

Staging Areas:

I support the proposed actions. I would like to see language specifying that staging areas are built with sustainable materials. Eg. Rock and earth as opposed to wood and rebar.

Leigh Creek Research Natural Area:

I support the proposed actions.

Camping:

I support the proposed actions.

Health and Human Safety:

I support the proposed actions.

I would like to request that the bathroom facility at the new parking area near the Mondo and Valhalla crags be designated "Eric Johnson Memorial Climbers Restroom". It was Eric, stricken with a terminal cancer diagnosis, who asked his friends to find a way to install a permanent restroom facility in the canyon specifically for climbers. He wanted to donate money to make this project happen before he passed. Myself and a group of local climbers at the time (circa 2012) created the 401C organization the 'Big Horn Climbers Coalition' to assist the land managers in addressing the impacts climbers were having on the canyon and to try and bring Eric's request to reality. Eric made the first monetary donation to the BHC to go toward this bathroom facility. RIP old friend.

Outfitter/Guide use:

I support the proposed actions.

Geologic Resources and Current and Future Route Development:

Proposed Actions #1:

I would like to see all areas of Ten Sleep Canyon be open to future new route development. Areas that are currently considered too crowded or popular will benefit from having more route options available for those that choose to visit those areas. Areas that are deemed to have potential impacts to wildlife could have those impacts mitigated by implementing seasonal closures. This has been done in recent years with great success and support from the climbing community.

Proposed Actions #2: Statement is specific about a process that is inherently vague. It is impossible to

determine what needs to be removed or can be removed prior to the route development process. Prudent removal of exfoliated or loose rock should not be the decision of land managers but left up to the developer of each individual route.

Proposed Actions #3:

I support the language in this action.

Proposed Actions #4:

- Closing an area for future development due to arbitrary 'route inventory' restrictions will not alleviate social concerns or overcrowding. Adding additional routes in these dense areas may serve to alleviate these concerns by offering other options to spread climbers out.
- Areas that are deemed to have potential impacts to wildlife could have those impacts mitigated by implementing seasonal closures. This has been done in recent years with great success and support from the climbing community.
- Most walls in Ten Sleep could be developed for rock climbing and it is impossible to make assumptions about what can and can't be climbed prior to close up inspection. Closing a cliff by making an assumption about potential climbing possibilities would certainly limit the future of higher end hard climbing.
- Development tactics using gluing and drills to create or enhance holds were an anomaly occurring over a brief period on a limited number of routes before the climbing community stepped in and asked for these tactics to cease. The routes created during this time period using these tactics were of high quality and safe. They were all quite popular and these crags should be reopened and the routes damaged by the vandalism incident of 2019 should be restored.
- I agree with the closure of areas in the Leigh Creek Natural Area.
- I agree with seasonal closures with regards to wildlife preservation.
- Limited parking for cliff access should be addressed to alleviated parking issues rather than instituting cliff closures.

Proposed Actions #5:

I agree that there should be a process whereby route developers apply for permits to add new routes anywhere in the canyon. This would slow the development to a manageable growth level as opposed to a free for all. Also limits on the number of routes any one individual can install in a given year should be set.

Proposed Actions #6:

None of this is necessary. No route removal should occur in any form for any reason (other than in Leigh Creek Natural Area). Policing the 'condition of routes' is not a required activity and certainly not one the FS should try to engage in.