

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/23/2023 3:43:03 PM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Humphreys

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding FSM 2355, specifically the proposal for a climbing plan and the management of anchors by the Forest Service.

While I appreciate the intention behind the plan, I believe it is crucial to address the underfunding and resource limitations that the Forest Service currently faces. Implementing such a plan without adequate resources may lead to long-term problems for recreationists, as has been witnessed in cases where critical roads or hiking trails remain closed for years due to maintenance challenges.

Furthermore, I am apprehensive about extending the Forest Service's jurisdiction to anchor management in climbing and other recreational activities. Climbing is just one of many pursuits that utilize fixed anchors, and imposing a uniform plan may not consider the unique needs and contexts of diverse activities. Caving and canyoneering, for instance, heavily rely on fixed anchors, serving both safety and erosion management purposes in sensitive areas.

It is essential to recognize that the cultural and ethical debates surrounding climbing should not be indiscriminately applied to other forms of recreation. The Forest Service might lack the nuanced understanding and context required for activities like caving and canyoneering, potentially resulting in unfair regulations that do not align with the needs of these recreational communities.

I urge the Forest Service to reconsider the inclusion of anchor management in FSM 2355 and to engage in open dialogue with representatives from various recreational groups. Collaborative efforts will ensure that any regulations put in place are fair, well-informed, and considerate of the diverse needs within the recreational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will carefully consider the potential implications of FSM 2355 on a broad spectrum of recreational activities.

Sincerely,

A very concerned citizen