Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/23/2023 5:54:34 PM First name: Emmett Last name: Lebendig Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly support this directive and proposal. Climbing, bouldering, caving and other similar activities are a very popular and fun activity to participate in on public lands. I've been recreationally climbing and bouldering for years now and I love it so much. It is critical that we continue to direct the public to use appropriate practices and standards for activities. I visited Grayson Highlands SP recently and loved the advertised bouldering trail with different V level path guides on trail signs next to rocks. As a conservationist myself, problems like erosion, sediment deposition, and destruction of fragile native vegetation and habitats, deeply concern me. At almost every park I've ever been to there has been visible, extensive vegetation and erosion damage, usually blocked off from visitors for care and regrowth. This is why it is so important to make sure climbing access is not only safe and practical, but very carefully designed, planned out, and built accordingly to mitigate weathering, consequences, and other disasters or destruction or natural resources. I notice many caves and caverns in particular (at least in the mid and southern Appalachians where I am) are frequently littered all over, have severely eroded slopes, and often old, illegal fire pits or other natural disturbances around them. I'm happy to hear this initiative has support and am grateful to the agencies working on this and seeking public comment. Thank you for your hard work!