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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I, Walker Eaton am writing to express my support for maintaining access to climbing areas on National Forrest Service land. Access for climbing is a constant discussion that needs to continue to happen so that we can reach mutual understanding on various circumstances.

Climbing has literally saved my life, having access to a sport that brings me outdoors to beautiful locations, to challenge my mind and body with friends who I love has become my greatest source of happiness. It has replaced addictive substances that I used irresponsibly and I am now sober and happier than I've ever been. I've heard many stories that echo these words as I've talked with many climbers throughout the years, on how the sport has improved our mental health and has allowed us to become better people. If you are not a climber, then you may be unaware of how beneficial climbing is for one's wellbeing. It puts us in flow and allows us to constantly attempt to better ourselves while enjoying the natural world around us, it is therapy for many. If you are passionate about recreation outside then I'm certain you share these same experiences with whatever pursuit you are absorbed by. If we were to restrict access to climbing in this country then I would question to actual "Freedom" that we as citizens have, I would also argue that this would prevent people from the pursuit of bettering themselves through outdoor recreation leading to an unhealthier society. Access to climbing areas should be supported if our goal as a country is to produce, healthier, happier, and more conscientious citizens.