

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/2/2024 4:36:06 PM

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Comments: Hello USFS,

I am writing in support of a Climbing Management Plan, but not the one written in FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524.

Climbing has been a hugely life changing endeavor for me. I have been climbing for 16 years and started in High School. It has pushed my career and recreational endeavors - I have become and Leave No Trace Master Educator because of the way climbing so intimately mingles with the natural environment and the human experience.

As I have grown older - I have increasingly sought out the experience of exploration. I have been climbing in areas that do not have guidebooks and have limited documented climbing history. My thoughts on climbing in Wilderness have been shared in another comment - this comment is directed towards the proposed management of climbing in non-wilderness. I do not believe that historical climbing use of an area should be the primary parameter as to whether or not climbing development shall be permitted. I believe this for several reasons. First, quite a bit of climbing goes undocumented and does not leave traces of the ascent - this is indeed the style I most prefer. Just because a climb has not left any trace should not disqualify a nearby route that requires some degree of fixed hardware in order to safely ascend. Climbing areas should be judged by their benefit to the community relative to the cultural and environmental impacts of climbing at that particular local. Lastly, I believe that this initiative will have the unintended consequence of pushing climbing into secrecy - as climbers will not know if their climbing areas have the historical precedence to be deemed appropriate. This will further increase the usage of documented climbing areas, likely overburdening them with excessive user impact.

I believe this initiative has good intent - but needs further refining and work with Local Climbing Organizations and non-profits to better serve the needs of recreational users.

With respect,

- Nathan Page