Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/8/2024 4:09:38 AM First name: Paige Last name: Newman Organization:

Title: Comments

Comments: Concerns against the proposed U.S. Forest Service Manual 2355 include its potential risk to the climbing community by reversing long-standing management practices, creating bureaucratic hurdles for permit applications, understaffing issues, and a lack of alignment with the collaborative history between the climbing community and the US Forest Service. The draft suggests managing climbing areas with power drills and promoting pitons over anchor bolts, demonstrating a disconnect with modern climbing methods. The convoluted bureaucracy outlined in the proposal is criticized for lacking accountability in defining climbing management plans. I argue that the proposal, aiming to address a non-existent problem, would burden the climbing community, create issues with current safe practice and restrict recreational opportunities in wilderness areas.