

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/14/2024 10:48:18 PM

First name: Curtis

Last name: Caton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber for over a decade, I am concerned about the USDA Forest Service's proposed directives on climbing management for National Forest System (NFS) lands. The proposed changes, outlined in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2300, Chapter 2350, seek to address climbing impacts while providing guidance on climbing opportunities within wilderness and NFS lands. While acknowledging the need for responsible climbing practices, the proposed directives introduce regulations on fixed anchors and equipment, potentially impacting the essence of climbing experiences. I urge the Forest Service to carefully consider public input and reconsider aspects of the proposed directives to ensure a balanced approach that supports climbing opportunities, aligns with conservation goals, and preserves the unique character of wilderness areas.