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Comments: Land agencies lack the resources to carry out the unfunded mandate. The guidance says land managers must create climbing management plans (CMPs) for each federal land unit. However, there are only a few CMPs in national parks and forests, and agencies don't have enough funding or resources (sometimes expertise) to finish these plans. Understaffed and underfunded public land managers would need to handle complex and resource-intensive requirements, even though they already have the authority to manage climbing in wilderness effectively.

This policy is likely to result in widespread rejection of requests for climbing activities on federal lands. Due to the resource constraints mentioned earlier, parks may be inclined to opt for blanket rejections of Minimum Requirements Analyses (MRAs). With limited resources for thorough reviews and a desire to avoid potential legal liabilities associated with maintenance responsibilities, public land agencies might choose a cautious approach, negatively impacting the approval process for climbing requests.

In essence, the lack of resources and potential legal concerns may lead to a significant hurdle in approving climbing activities on federal lands, posing challenges for both land agencies and enthusiasts alike.

I sincerely hope this legislation will be reconsidered at the very least.