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Comments: I have been enjoying the Daniel Boone NF and Clifty Wilderness since 1986 and have been climbing in the RRG since 1995. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed USDA Forest Service proposed directive FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524.

I am a member of the RRGCC and the Access Fund, an avid outdoor enthusiast and climber who is extremely familiar with the RRG in general and the Clifty Wilderness in particular.

Climbers through the RRGCC have developed a very good working relationship with the Forest Service and I feel that proposed FSM 2335 climbing management policy will do nothing but damage this very important and valuable relationship.

Climbers have worked cooperatively with the Forest Service to maintain and replace the fixed anchors according to existing Wilderness standards and should be permitted to continue to do so for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of recreating climbers in these special places.

Climbing in the Clifty Wilderness is unique and the opportunity to recreate and climb there should be allowed to be pursued safely with well-maintained fixed anchors, according to FS standards.

I fully support the RRGCC's request that the FSM 2335 climbing management policy be revised to address climbers' and RRGCC's concerns.

I strongly support, as established by the Daniel Boone National Forest Land Management Plan, that FSM 2335 revisions should also reflect a policy direction of allowing maintenance of fixed anchors to be performed by climbers.

Climbing is a recognized and valued outdoor recreational pursuit on National Forest and Wilderness land and should be managed to be allowed, not discouraged, or made unsafe, as long as protection and management goals can be maintained with less restrictive means.

I urge the Forest Service in the strongest possible terms to not ban fixed anchors in the Clifty Wilderness given the need for continued access for safe recreating, continued cooperation with climbers, and the continuing growing national interest in outdoor well-managed climbing opportunities.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment,
Shannon Stuart-Smith