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Comments: Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed USDA Forest Service proposed directive FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524

I have enjoyed climbing in the Red River Gorge since 1994. This includes having climbed in the Clifty Wilderness Area, Clifty crags include Eagle Point Buttress, Wall of Denial, and Funk Rock City.

I support the position of the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) in their comments requesting for the proposed directive FSM 2355 to be withdrawn and revised to address the RRGCC's concerns that:

1. The FSM 2335 climbing management policy will result in a prohibition on climbing development, fixed anchor maintenance, and new fixed anchor placement that if adopted, will most likely result in climber injuries or even deaths.
2. The FSM 2335 reliance on the development of Climbing Management Plans before actions can be taken by climbers is unworkable.
3. Climbing Management Plan development should be consistent with recreational goals, standards, and desired future conditions provided in a Land Management Plan.
4. Climbing Management Plan guidance should include Forest Service procedures for securing funding and resources in support of climbing management objectives through agency budgeting and congressional appropriations.
5. As established by the Daniel Boone National Forest Land Management Plan, FSM 2335 revisions should also reflect a policy direction of allowing maintenance of fixed anchors to be performed by climbers.
6. Language for conducting law enforcement patrols at climbing opportunities be removed from FSM 2355 and would be a waste of precious Forest Service resources.
7. The policy direction for Wilderness Areas in FSM 2355 be revised to generally allow for historically present fixed anchors to remain and to be maintained.

We are a responsible group of family oriented outdoor enthusiasts who respect safety, compliance and minimal impact. Fixed anchors are in essential part of the safe healthy low impact use of this area. Adults, children and international travelers have use this area for decades without issue. Fixed anchors are a measurable and controllable way to eliminate risk. When a group is motivated to respect and enjoy the outdoors with less risk, everyone wins. The scouts build and maintain trails at times and it is seen as a positive management of nature that the public is using. Instead of seeing it as a disruption, it's a controlled way to use public lands. Fixed anchors lowers the risk for the public use of these lands and it's been working. Thank you for your consideration.