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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 for over a year now.

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the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) in their comments requesting for the proposed directive FSM 2355 to be withdrawn and revised to address the RRGCC's concerns that: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

Climbing at the Red River Gorge was my first experience climbing outdoors, and I had never felt more connected with nature than when I was hiking and climbing. From my experience, the climbing community is extremely loving and caring towards nature and conservation as a whole. Leave no trace. So the impact that we make in nature in those areas are minimal at most compared to many others who visit. While yes, permanent gear like bolts and such may leave a lasting impact on the cliff sides, it doesn't greatly affect the integrity and conservation of those locations. As stated above, bolts allow climbers, especially younger climbers, to stay safe as they commune with nature through climbing. And I believe that the more people are exposed to the beauty of nature, the greater the societal push there will be to respect and protect all the beautiful parks we have throughout the country.