

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 9:17:57 PM

First name: Matthew

Last name: Braun

Organization:

Title:

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 more than 10 years.

This includes having climbed in the Clifty Wilderness Area and have loved visiting

Adena

Wall

Bee Branch

Blackburn Rock

Board Wall

Camp Store Crag

Chimney Top Rock

Clearcut Wall

Courthouse Rock

DBoone Hut Crag

Dip Wall

The Dome

Dunkan Rock

Eagle Point Buttress

Eastern Sky Bridge Ridge

Fortress Wall

Funk Rock City

Half Moon Rock

Haystack Rock

Hen's Nest Rock

Indian Creek

Jailhouse Rock

Jazz Rock

Jewel Pinnacle

Kentucky Wall

Left Flank

Long Wall

Lost Ridge

Lower Sky Bridge Ridge

Lower Small Wall

Lumpy Wall

Mariba Fork

Middle Small Wall

Military Wall

Minas Tirith

Moonshiner's Wall

Muscle Beach

Pebble Beach

Phantasia

Pinch Em Tight

Pistol Ridge

Princess Arch

Purple Valley

Raven Rock  
Rock Bridge Rd.  
Rough Trail  
See Rocks  
Shallow Boulder  
Spring Wall  
Staircase Wall  
Symphony Wall  
Tarr Ridge  
Tower Rock  
Tunnel Wall  
Wall of Denial  
Western Sky Bridge Ridge  
Willie's Wall  
Window Wall

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the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) in their comments requesting for the proposed directive FSM 2355 to be withdrawn and revised to address the RRGCC's concerns that: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