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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 13 years. This includes having climbed in the Clifty Wilderness Area. 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the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) in their comments requesting for the proposed directive FSM 2355 to be withdrawn and revised to address the RRGCC's concerns that: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.

On top of my involvement with the Red River Gorge and the Red River Gorge Climbing Coalition I have also had the pleasure to climb in many other state park, national parks, and national wilderness areas such as Joshua Tree National Park, Malibu Creek State Park, and Smith Rock State Park just to name a few.

The proposed restrictions to current and future climbing areas could endanger the safety of climbers. These restrictions will make an inherently risky activity more dangerous. It could also limit the number of people who have access and motivation to go outdoors and currently climbing is a growing sport bring more people to the outdoors and nature than ever before. The proposed changes would only damage the positive movement we are having with climbing recreationally.

The vast majority of climbers are fantastic stewards to the natural environment and do their utmost to preserve natural beauty and wilderness. I believe strongly that these proposed changes will have an overall negative affect on the climbing community and its progress to bring new people to the outdoors.

I thank you for your time and consideration,

-Alicia