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Comments: Howdy,

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

As a longtime and frequent user of National Forest lands and Wilderness areas I join the many voices requesting that the proposed directive FSM 2355 be withdrawn and revised to address concerns that: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. 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 is a great way to experience wilderness, and there are iconic and historic climbs partially or fully in wilderness areas. Placing blanket bolt bans will hinder access and safety and could cause the loss of many wilderness allies by alienating climbers and climbing organizations. There are already regulations and rules surrounding wilderness areas that have guided the establishment and use of climbing routes, and that encourage communication and engagement between climbers and Forest service staff. I think these norms should be maintained, and that specific regions should retain the ability to manage their wilderness areas with the regional knowledge they have.

Clean climbing should remain the norm in wilderness areas, bolt replacement and addition should be done sparingly and with communication between climbers and the land management agency, and stewardship should continue to be emphasized. But in the same way I don't want all of the little wooden bridges over snow-melt swollen creeks to disappear from the wilderness, I don't want the occasional bolt that facilitates a safe descent to disappear.

Thank you again for collecting comments, and also for your thoughtful and nuanced approach to this topic.