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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 almost 8 years now. This includes having climbed in
the Clifty Wilderness Area, especially 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the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) in their comments requesting for the proposed directive FSM 2355 to be withdrawn and revised to address the RRGCC's concerns that: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.