

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:38:44 AM

First name: Jose

Last name: Gutierrez

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear USDA, while I have already submitted a comment I would like to add one more for your consideration. My stance in my prior comment is that the USDA should abandon this MRA process as it is going to be too difficult to implement effectively and greatly hamper the development and preservation of America's proud and rich climbing tradition. I would like to propose an alternate policy that I believe that could accomplish the goal that you are setting out to do and that is protect America's wilderness (which most if not all climbers also want). If there are certain rock formations which you would like to limit human traffic to for legitimate reasons such as an endangered or threatened species habitat, culturally significant sites for Native Americans, or other legitimate reasons (other than we don't want to see climbers ) then enact bans or restrictions at those specific sites. There are countless examples in climbing where this is working, for example during raptors mating season climbers respect the raptor closures and work with the NPS to avoid the designated sites as instructed. During the month of June climbers avoid Devils Tower out of respect for Native Americans cultural activities at that time of the year. The fact is that everywhere you look there are examples such as the YNP facelift where climbers work with the NPS to preserve our wilderness for future generations. By enacting your draft policy you would be destroying this collaborative and beneficial relationship between climbers and the NPS/USFS. I highly encourage you to consider a site specific and much more narrow regulation instead of the unnecessarily broad and sweeping policy you have drafted.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jose Gutierrez