

February 22, 2022

Steve Brown, District Ranger
Stevensville Ranger District
88 Main Street
Stevensville, MT 59870
Sent via email: steve.brown2@usda.gov

Dear Steve,

We thank you and your team for the work done to this point, knowing it has not been an easy process.

In your January 25th email to early participants of the Bitterroot National Forest's public involvement process for a Forest-Wide Climbing Management Plan (CMP), you indicated that the process has entered its next phase and that your team will "draft up a CMP to bring back to the larger group for a final Zoom meeting the evening of March 23rd."

A number of those early participants have put much time into researching CMPs and policies currently used by the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and by States and Cities across the U.S. From these plans and policies, they developed a proposed Citizens' Climbing Management Plan (CCMP) that incorporates proven management strategies. Key elements include:

- An inventory of climbing routes
- An authorization system to install fixed anchors (climbing would **not** require authorization)
- An 800-meter (1/2 mile) seasonal buffer around raptor nests
- Education and outreach
- Protection of wilderness characteristics

We, the undersigned, have reviewed this CCMP and offer our support for it to be presented as an alternative and analyzed for the upcoming NEPA process. The proposed CCMP alternative brings together existing and practical guidelines that best protect our shared public land experience, wildlife, cultural heritage, and sustainable climbing opportunities.

Please include our organizations in all up-coming public involvement regarding this CMP process by sending mailings and related correspondence to the designated addresses below.

Sincerely,

George Nickas, Executive Director
Wilderness Watch
P.O. Box 9175
Missoula, MT 59807
gnickas@wildernesswatch.org

Michael Garrity,
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
P.O. Box 505
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Adam Rissien, ReWilding Advocate
WildEarth Guardians
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Micki Long, President
Bitterroot Audubon
mickilong@gmail.com

Jay Sumner
Montana Peregrine Institute
P.O. Box 317
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<https://www.montanaperegrine.org>

Jim Miller, President
Friends of the Bitterroot
P.O. Box 442
Hamilton, MT 59840
millerfobmt@gmail.com

Macfarlane, Ecosystem Defense Director
Friends of the Clearwater
P.O. Box 9241
Moscow, ID 83843
www.friendsoftheclearwater.org

Patty Ames, President
Flathead Lolo Bitterroot Task Force
<https://www.montanaforestplan.org/>

Keith Hammer, Chair
Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
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Arlene Montgomery
Friends of the Wild Swan
P.O. Box 103
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arlene@wildswan.org

Sara Johnson, Director
Native Ecosystems Council
P.O. Box 125
Willow Creek, MT 59760
sjohnsonkoa@yahoo.com

Denise Boggs
Conservation Congress
www.conservationcongress-ca.org

Clinton Nagel, President
Gallatin Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 5317
Bozeman, MT 59717
clint_nagel@yahoo.com

Attachment:

Citizens' Climbing Management Plan

CC sent via email:

Caleb George
Stevensville Ranger District
88 Main Street
Stevensville, MT 59870
caleb.george@usda.gov

Matt Anderson, Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor
1801 North 1st
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-7100
matthew.anderson3@usda.gov

Leanne Martin, Regional Forester
Northern Region Federal Building
PO Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807
leanne.marten@usda.gov

Samantha Rider, National Recreation Planner
USDA Forest Service National Office
1400 Independence Ave.
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Ara Marderosian, Executive Director
Sequoia ForestKeeper®
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Joseph Scalia III, President
Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance
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Nancy Ostlie & Linda Healow, Co-leaders
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Mary Alexine, Co-Leader
Northwest Montana Great Old Broads for Wilderness
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Kent Wellner, Acting National Program Manager for
Climbing
USDA Forest Service National Office
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Tony Incashola Jr.- Department Head
CS&KT Tribal Forestry Department,
Tony.incashola.jr@cskt.org

Kathryn McDonald, Compliance Manager
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the
Flathead Reservation (CS&KT), Cultural
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