



CLIMBING REGULATIONS Bitterroot National Forest

The USDA Forest Service reminds all Forest visitors that development of new climbing routes or trails on the Bitterroot National Forest, including areas with existing climbing routes, is prohibited. It is also prohibited to interfere with the use of an area by other persons by means of obstructing access or vandalizing existing climbing apparatus.

If an individual or group is developing new routes with any type of permanent hardware or apparatus to include bolts, glue, manufactured hand holds; or modifying routes through chipping, cleaning, hammering, or drilling new or existing holds, they will be subject to criminal prosecution, to include restitution for the impacted areas.

Pursuant to 16 USC 551; 36 CFR§261.9(a) Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States.

36 CFR§261.9(b) Removing any natural feature or other property of the United States.

36 CFR§261.10(a) Constructing, placing, or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment, or other improvement on National Forest System land or facilities with a special-use authorization, contract, or approved operating plan.

If an individual or group is seeking to impede the travel along and/or use of an existing trail by other Forest users or they are vandalizing existing climbing apparatus (i.e., bolts) and thereby creating a potentially unsafe condition they will be subject to criminal prosecution, to include restitution for the impacted areas.

Pursuant to 16 USC 551; 36 CFR§261.9(a) Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States.

36 CFR§261.9(b) Removing any natural feature or other property of the United States.

36 CFR§261.12(c) Damaging and leaving in a damaged condition any such road, trail, or segment thereof.

36 CFR§261.12(d) Blocking, restricting, or otherwise interfering with the use of a road, trail, or gate.

The Bitterroot National Forest is in the process of developing a climbing management plan, with the purpose of helping to reduce user conflicts and protect the unique climbing attributes found here on the Forest. The Forest is also seeking to reduce conflict between user groups while in the process of plan development. Actions taken in the past by citizens to attempt to impede use



of trails to popular climbing areas have only served to increase the conflict between groups and do not serve the interests of furthering the cooperation and collaboration that will be needed moving forward. There will be ample opportunity for all interested parties to participate and comment on this plan as it is developed.

Your cooperation will not only serve to enhance and protect the resources that are currently enjoyed, but will also help to ensure the sustainable and responsible management of sport climbing into the future.

For questions, information, or input regarding the climbing management plan please contact Steve Brown, Stevensville District Ranger, (406) 777-5461.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MATTHEW D. ANDERSON
Forest Supervisor