

## Climbing Management Plan Development

The Bitterroot National Forest is undertaking the development of a comprehensive climbing management plan (CMP), with the purpose of promoting sustainable climbing activities into the future. The plan will seek to reduce user conflicts, minimize impacts to resource values, and protect the unique climbing attributes found here on the Bitterroot National Forest.

We desire that this CMP be built by the community so that it reflects the conservation and recreation values held by all those affected by the guidelines here-in. In order to accomplish that we have invited interested members of the community to come together and cooperatively define how climbing will be managed on the Bitterroot National Forest. The forest would be using the Story Map platform to provide an opportunity to kick start the collaborative process.

### **What is a Story Map?**

A Story Map is an application that allows the agency to publish a website and will serve as a tool to highlight the collaboration as the process evolves over time. Essentially, it will provide a starting point for conversation leading into the development of a Climbing Management Plan. Over the course of the next 12 months this Story Map will also serve as both progress tracker and information hub so that all interested parties can readily obtain information on the process and the status of the CMP development. Once developed, this tool will also be utilized as an information hub, or central source of information, that will provide updates to the public and interested parties. Members of the collaboration will work together to steer the Story Map and the process. Once Story Map is complete, the forest will come up with a recommendation on how to draft the climbing management plan.

### **Process Timeline**

January 10, 2021:	Deadline for Story Map submissions
January 29, 2021:	Deadline for Bitterroot NF staff to review Story Map submissions
Early February, 2021:	Draft Story Map content send out to collaborative for review and comment.
Early February, 2021:	Meeting scheduled with collaborative to discuss Story Map content
Mid-February, 2021:	Story Map content Published
TBD:	Workshops scheduled with collaborative to discuss substantial issues outlined in the Story Map process and potential solutions.
TBD:	Forest to provide a recommendation of how to draft the CMP

### **Your Input is Needed**

We want to hear your thoughts, and you don't even have to leave home! Attend a planning workshop or submit comments, questions, or suggestions to [SM.FS.BRFClimbing@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.BRFClimbing@usda.gov).