



## Forest Service News Release

**Media Contact:** Tod McKay  
(406) 363-7122; [tod.mckay@usda.gov](mailto:tod.mckay@usda.gov)

### Forest to Host Virtual Public Meeting for Bitterroot Climbing Management Plan

**Hamilton, MT, May 28** — The Bitterroot National Forest will host a **virtual public meeting on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** to share information regarding the development of a forest Climbing Management Plan (CMP). This is the first of several public meetings to discuss the current needs and opportunities for a forest climbing plan.

The virtual meeting will be held on the Microsoft TEAMS meeting platform. See below for instructions and a link join the meeting.

In addition to being an opportunity to learn about and participate in the process of developing a climbing plan, the meeting will:

- ✓ Introduce a framework for working together to understand critical issues, explore solutions, and provide recommended elements of a future CMP.
- ✓ Engage in a discussion around critical issues (e.g., considerations around impacts to raptors).
- ✓ Seek feedback on the process with the aim of providing meaningful engagement opportunities.

Last month, the forest published an interactive Story Map to provide an information hub for those interested in climbing management. The project was designed with input from local community members and represents the beginning of the process for developing a CMP. Once completed, the plan will describe the desired condition for responsible climbing activities across the forest, considering the need for maintaining recreation access while also providing for appropriate cultural and natural resource protections.

To view the Climbing Story Map or for a link to the virtual public meeting, visit <https://arcg.is/riqW5>. Click on “Get Involved” and scroll down to “Upcoming Events”. For more information contact the Stevensville Ranger District at (406) 777-5461.

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