



Forest Service News Release

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

Forest to Host Second Public Meeting for Bitterroot Climbing Management Plan

Hamilton, MT, July 9 — The Bitterroot National Forest will host a second **public meeting on Wednesday, July 14th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** to share information regarding the development of a forest Climbing Management Plan (CMP). The virtual meeting will be held on Zoom. See below for instructions and a link to join the meeting. The first public meeting (virtual) was held on June 2nd.

In addition to being an opportunity to learn about and participate in the process of developing a climbing plan, the objectives for next week's public meeting include:

- ✓ Build common understanding around the need and opportunity for a CMP for the forest.
- ✓ Explore interests and intentions around climbing management and the process of developing a framework for working together to understand critical issues and explore solutions.
- ✓ Discuss options to capture and communicate information needs and key updates.
- ✓ Revisit the discussion around raptors to test the proposed framework.
- ✓ Seek feedback on the process with the aim of providing meaningful engagement opportunities.

In May, the forest published an interactive Story Map to provide an information hub for those interested in climbing management. The project included input from community members and represents the beginning of the process for 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 join next week's Zoom meeting click on the link below and enter the following meeting ID **(998 1935 6218)** and passcode **(491563)** --

<https://umontana.zoom.us/j/99819356218?pwd=bzZCUUdnNnlRVTK5cmVPVG1PM1Zmdz09>.

To view the Climbing Story Map, visit <https://arcg.is/riqW5>. For more information, contact the Stevensville Ranger District at (406) 777-5461.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.