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Organization:

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Comments: As someone who has climbed at established routes and areas on FS land all across the west and who is actively developing and seeking out new rock climbing opportunities in an easily accessible wilderness area, I would like to share that I believe that the climbing community as a whole is doing an excellent job self managing the establishment and maintenance of anchors in both wilderness and non wilderness setting.

Climbers are some of the most passionate and dedicated users of Forest Service lands and time spent climbing and developing routes in wilderness brings an immeasurable joy and honor. Inventorying and approving both updated and newly installed anchors in just the wilderness areas alone will be a decades long task that will never be finished. I am in strong disbelief that this is a necessary and prudent use of taxpayer money when the climbing community has been managing itself well in this area. The forest service is signing itself up for an impossible task with minimal benefit. I will applaud the section that states that sanitation should be provided at popular areas. That is long overdue and more the focus of what climbing management should be.

There are better, simpler ways to become involved in management of climbing and it's impacts across wilderness and non wilderness forest service lands than to assume the responsibility to catalogue and manage this microscopic level of detail by recording every single anchor and bolt placement. The forest service has much more prudent and impactful places to spend its funds in ways that enhance ecosystem health and recreation opportunities. Requiring prior approval before the establishment of any new route would change the nature of American climbing forever in a negative way. Most climbers are extremely satisfied with the current state of climbing on wilderness and non wilderness forest service lands.

If, however, you do decide to pursue this unfathomable level of detailed documentation of wilderness climbing anchors, I do volunteer myself to be a paid a reasonable government salary to spend the rest of my working days climbing every 3 star and above 5.8+ or easier multipitch climb that exists in a wilderness area. I will report back with photos and proper documentation of anchor condition and necessity.

All the best, -menno sennesael