

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/5/2023 5:20:22 PM

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Comments: I am writing to express my support for the inclusion of bolted anchors in climbing management directives as outlined in the proposed FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities. Climbing, as a recreational activity, plays a crucial role in connecting people with nature and fostering a sense of adventure and exploration. As such, I believe it is essential to strike a balance between facilitating climbing opportunities and ensuring the safety of climbers and the preservation of the natural environment.

Bolted anchors serve as important safety measures in climbing, offering secure points for climbers to anchor themselves during ascents and descents. These anchors contribute significantly to the overall safety of climbers, particularly in areas where natural anchors are scarce or unreliable. By acknowledging fixed anchors as installations for the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(c)), the proposed directives recognize the practicality and necessity of such equipment in certain climbing scenarios.

I appreciate the Forest Service's commitment to providing guidance on climbing opportunities that align with visitor needs, land management objectives, and cultural resource protection. The proposed directives rightly emphasize the importance of considering climbing's impact both inside and outside wilderness areas, ensuring that recreational activities are in harmony with the natural setting of NFS lands.

Furthermore, the encouragement of special use permits for the issuance and administration of fixed anchors and equipment demonstrates a proactive approach to managing climbing activities. This not only enhances visitor access to climbing opportunities but also promotes education on low-impact climbing practices, fostering a culture of responsible and sustainable recreation.

In conclusion, I urge the USDA Forest Service to maintain the provision for bolted anchors in climbing management directives. These anchors are indispensable tools that enhance safety, promote responsible recreation, and contribute to a positive climbing experience for enthusiasts. By striking the right balance between access and conservation, we can ensure that NFS lands continue to provide diverse and enjoyable climbing opportunities for present and future generations.

Thank you for considering my comments, and I trust that the Forest Service will continue to prioritize the well-being of climbers and the preservation of our natural landscapes.

Sincerely,