Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/15/2023 11:44:29 PM

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Title:

Comments: The current proposal for review of every installation or replacement of a climbing anchor in wilderness is an untenable plan which will endanger the long legacy of climbing in wilderness that predates the wilderness act. Furthermore, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources. This plan will be an unenforceable and unfunded mandate for an extraordinary amount of paperwork by the NFS. Climbing has been seen for over a century as a legitimate way of exploration in wilderness and non-wilderness areas. The management of climbing has allowed for the use of fixed anchors for many decades. There is no reason to effectively ban fixed anchors after so many years of allowing them. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbing, providing a safe and low impact way to experience climbing. Without permanent anchors left behind there is no way for climbers to repel or descend routes and many routes would become unclimbable. This plan will artificially reduce the amount of climbing opportunities, creating greater impact on those areas that remain. While there may be merit in evaluating climbing's impact as the sport grows in popularity, this proposal will undoubtably lead to large amounts of conflict with a user group that has historically acted as wilderness and natural resource advocates. Please rethink this policy. If the Forest Service would like to evaluate and limit the impacts of climbing, they should do so through a process the Forest Service can actually manage and implement as well as not create burdensome, unenforceable rules that will sour relations with the climbing community.