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Comments: Amid increasing usage of wilderness climbing routes, prohibiting service and installation of pitons, bolts, slings, and other fixed hardware would create a worsening public safety issue.

- Rappelling is the primary cause of death in climbing accidents. When climbers rappel, they rely on a single anchor, and anchor failure during rappelling often results in death.
 - Prohibiting the maintenance of anchors or placing bolted anchors increases the risk of anchor failure.
 - Without the ability to leave behind equipment or modify existing slings or pitons, climbers will be encouraged to trust the existing gear left exposed to weather over the years.
 - The proposed directives FSM 2355 will exacerbate an already significant threat to the climbing public who use USFS wilderness to climb.
- Aging hardware makes climbing routes and descents less safe, which causes more accidents. This would increase demand on already overworked volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) organizations.
- The new directives will make existing routes more hazardous by discouraging maintenance of bolts and anchors.
 - Volunteer SAR organizations are overworked because of increasing usage of wilderness. Proposed directives FSM 2355 would create even more demand on SAR.
 - Rappelling off of bolts or fixed anchors is often the only option for climbers to self-rescue before activating SAR resources.
 - The proposed directives would prevent climbers from safely retreating from routes without SAR rescue, for example during inclement weather