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First name: C

Last name: White

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

With much respect, please consider safety of those who frequent NPS land including climbers in your plan.

Carefully planned and placed fixed hardware, in particular at anchor and rappel stations, should remain and be assessed by those with wilderness climbing expertise.

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.

Please consider climbers' safety as part of your plan. Most climbers I know love our earth, and climbing is not just a sport for us. It's a communal if not spiritual experience. Please consider climbers and include expert climbers and rescuers in your plan.