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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.