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Comments: Rock climbing in wilderness is a beautiful way to experience the landscape. I have climbed in wilderness from the nearby Sandia Mountains to the High Sierra. Some of my most fond memories are of climbing in wilderness. Take for example my ascent of the Sun Ribbon Arete on the Temple Crag in the John Muir Wilderness. This route requires very little fixed gear, however there is a tyrolen traverse that requires a fixed nut and piton as well as slings around a rock for the rappel. This route would be unsafe and impossible to get off without fixed anchors. If you look at areas that have banned fixed anchors it is a de facto ban on climbing, see the Superstition Wilderness. Please do not ban climbing in wilderness unless it meets the standards of an MRA, as we all know these analyses will be few are far between.

On the matter of regulating new climbing opportunities in non-wilderness, I appreciate the Forest Service considering this issue as ensuring resource protection is extremely important. However, this will likely cause some unintended consequences. The current proposal will limit or stop the expansion or development of this type of recreation. Take for example the growing sub-discipline of bouldering. It does not have the same long history as some of the other types of climbing and therefore hasn't been nearly as widely practiced. If this proposal had been in affect places such as the recently discovered Roy on the Kiowa Grassland would likely never have been approved as it was not an existing climbing opportunity. Furthermore, limiting climbing to existing opportunities will limit access to climbing in areas that do not have a deep history of climbing, for example there is a lot of rock in the Ozark NF with the potential for climbing, but that is not currently being climbed. Please consider more carefully how to do this correctly.