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Comments: As a naturalized American citizen and long-time climber, particularly in CA, I support the spirit of this document in protecting nature...BUT I am concerned about the consequences of prohibiting fixed anchors for the safety of Americans and visitors from overseas as well as potentially Forest Service personnel also.

Please reconsider prohibiting fixed anchors. I have enjoyed participating in USA's rich climbing legacy and some of the world's greatest climbing routes. I hope you will devise a climbing management policy that will protect existing routes from removal, and the safety of those who climb here.

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.

Specifically here are my thoughts:

Internationally fixed anchors are an understood tradition and essential aspect climbers' safety. Historically the USA has been admired worldwide for responsible climbing policies that allow thoughtful use of fixed anchors and attracted many to enjoy the USA's natural character and climbing opportunities.

Collaboratively over many decades the US climbing community has worked with agencies like USFS and co-evolved existing policies and guidance about fixed anchors that is essentially safe, workable and well-understood. It would be best to continue to allow, manage and authorize their judicious use.

Many classic, historic, and popular climbs have enjoyed protection of fixed anchors for many years, these need to be (and currently are) maintained regularly by the climbing community.. Regulations that make it difficult to examine and replace these as necessary will likely pose a risk to climbers' safety. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors runs the risk of obstructing new explorations. Climbers will want to explore opportunities in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions as they arise.