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Comments: I am writing to express my concern about the proposal directed at regulating fixed climbing anchors on Forest Service lands.

Some of my most memorable days recreating in the outdoors have occurred climbing on FS land. I am a Leave No Trace (LNT) certified trainer and hold a MS degree in ecology, and I have seen first hand how climbers practice LNT principles and self-police. There is a strong ethic in climbing to reduce impact and be conservative with fixed anchor placement. Most developers I know take painstaking steps to paint or powder coat climbing hardware to reduce visual impact, and I have personally skipped bolts while climbing routes due to not seeing them, as they were camouflaged so well.

I am concerned that review periods would be extremely slow. Given my background, it is obvious that I care about sustainable use of our natural resources. That being said, I believe that this proposal will result in increased accidents requiring evacuations and an increased impact on vegetation as more trees are used as anchors. Decades of cooperation and sustainable use by climbers will be in jeopardy. I am extremely passionate on this subject, and words typed here cannot adequately capture my thoughts on the issue.