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Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to provide crucial feedback on the proposed directives outlined in FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524 regarding climbing management on National Forest System (NFS) lands.

American rock climbing holds a rich and storied history that spans generations, from the pioneering spirits of John Muir to the icons of Yosemite such as Royal Robbins, Yvone Chouinard, Lynn Hill, and numerous other trailblazers. These climbers not only showcased incredible feats of daring adventure, capturing the essence of the American spirit, but they also stood as stalwarts of environmentalism and advocates for leave-no-trace ethics. Rock climbing has served as my gateway to experiencing the raw beauty of our natural environment. It has opened my eyes to the intricacies of the landscape and taught me invaluable lessons about our responsibility to protect it. Inspired by the ethos of these climbers, I've embraced a conscious approach in my choices as a consumer, striving to minimize my ecological footprint and champion sustainable practices. It is disheartening to contemplate that the essence of American rock climbing, cultivated by these legendary figures, could be in jeopardy for future generations.

The proposed interpretation of the Wilderness Act as categorizing fixed anchors and equipment as installations raises profound concerns. Historically, the use of such elements has been an intrinsic part of the climbing experience, fostering a deep connection between climbers and the wilderness. Any shift in this interpretation risks not only disrupting climbing traditions but also diminishing the opportunity for future generations to forge a similar profound bond with nature through climbing.

I urge the Forest Service to reconsider the proposed directives in a manner that acknowledges the historical significance of climbing practices in Wilderness areas. It's imperative to foster a collaborative approach that balances responsible recreation with the conservation of our natural treasures, honoring the legacy of American climbing heritage and its vital role in fostering environmental stewardship.

Thank you for consideration,

Jose Antonio Gutierrez