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Comments: Managing our national forest lands is an obvious necessity. However, in doing so we must keep in mind that that management is for the use of that land by the public. Rock climbing is a long-standing recreational activity on public lands including those managed by the Forest Service. As rock climbing increases in popularity it is a good idea for it to be addressed in management plans; but that management should serve to protect rock climbing not prevent or restrict it.

Fixed climbing anchors are a critical safety component of rock climbing and are fundamental to the activity. They should not be banned or prohibited, nor should they be restricted to an unenforceable, vague description of "existing climbing opportunities." This will only serve to stop or prevent grassroots efforts from maintaining current fixed climbing anchors and endanger lives of climbers in these areas. It bears repeating, restricting or banning the maintenance or installation of fixed climbing anchors will result in death of climbers on Forest Service lands.

The Forest Service is already underfunded to perform their current land management load. Adding the management of hundreds of thousand of fixed climbing anchors is completely untenable. I am firmly against any outright prohibition of fixed climbing anchors on Forest Service managed lands. Furthermore, any reduction in a local climbing community's ability to repair, replace, or maintain fixed climbing anchors on Forest Service lands will result in loss of life.

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 the maintenance of existing and new anchors.

Thank you for considering my comments.