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First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an avid climber, outdoor enthusiast, and general nature-lover. I've made countless memories on Forest land, and some of my richest memories have been made climbing. Fixed anchors have enabled me and countless others to safely recreate on wilderness land. To this day, fixed anchor placement/replacement, maintenance, and inspection are completed by volunteers from the climbing community, including local climbing organizations. The tremendous amount of work these volunteers put in ensure that all of us can safely and responsibly engage in climbing on these lands.

Considering fixed anchors and equipment as installations reverses decades of precedence. This precedence has kept climbers safe while navigating the vertical world. While I generally agree that more regulation in this space might be a good idea, I am concerned with how these policies will be exercised in practice. To ensure climbing remains a legitimate, safe, and equitable activity on wilderness land, please consider the following points:

- The MRA process must be fast, open, and simple. There should be mandatory timelines, public access to decisions, and a simple application that allows for flexibility. Anchor replacement is time sensitive. They have limited lifetimes and delays in their inspection and replacement can have grave consequences.
- Default approval of MRAs for existing fixed anchors. If removal is suspected, do not take action until MRA is complete or a climbing management plan has been established.
- Require public notice before removing any fixed anchors or equipment, including why the bolts are being removed and consultation with local climbing organization(s).
- Close collaboration and communication between USFS and the local climbing organization or community in any decision making.

Thank you.