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Comments: I just learned that the USFS is considering making fixed anchors (bolts, pitons, slings) prohibited in non-wilderness areas. As an avid outdoor climber (last 25 years). This would be detrimental to the safety of climbing, therefore the sport.

Using fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbing, rarely does one come across a safe place to have a natural anchor in many areas. Also after decades of climbing, there could be physical harm to a natural anchor, therefore making it unsafe.

Fixed anchors have been around for 50+ years, in some areas longer than the region was a part of the USFS . These are inspected and replaced on a regular basis to ensure safety.

While I agree that there has been an influx of newer climbers flocking to the climbing areas, by not allowing fixed anchors, not only would old anchors not be replaced, it creates an unnecessary safety risk.

To this day, after my 25+ years of climbing and over 100 years of the sport, there are still new areas being discovered, many of these areas. By preventing the use of fixed anchors there would be an increased risk for those that are climbing above their ability and have to stop before reaching the end of the climb and those anchors for rescues.

The use of fixed anchors are one of the critical pieces that climbers look at when planning a climbing trip. The stopping of fixed anchors in these areas would mean a decrease in tourism for the area. We are a vital part of the tourism community.

By prohibiting fixed anchors, not only would this tarnish the sport, safety issues and rescues would sky rocket.