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Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed fixed anchor guidance in Wilderness areas.

I also object to the highly subjective "existing climbing opportunities" restriction on the establishment of new routes on non-Wilderness lands.

Climbing anchors have been installed and used in the backcountry/wilderness for more than half a century. They are essential for climbers' safety. The Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) is too cumbersome, could lead to unsafe situations since there is often no time for such a procedure, and could open up the USFS to litigation.

Existing anchors should not be subject to MRAs, and existing routes should be protected from removal. Future generations of climbers could be deprived the opportunity to experience iconic, longstanding routes. The proposal to assess and possibly remove fixed anchors also puts an additional bureaucratic burden on land managers who are already understaffed and underfunded. Climbers are generally not inclined to unnecessarily install or replace anchors since it is expensive and time-consuming, but do need the ability to make critical personal safety decisions during their activity. Climbers should also not be prevented from appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas through judicious use of anchors.

Thank you.