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Comments: The proposed directive is seriously flawed and misguided with little concern for safety or the environment. Two bolts at the top of a climb are very low impact and they actually protect the trees and vegetation on the cliff top (example the Bridge Buttress at the New River Gorge, WV). A wad of slings around the trees is an eyesore and much less of an environmental impact than two tiny bolts that are often difficult to find, even while on a climbing route.

The proposed directive is dangerous and irresponsible. It will also create more red tape and problems than it solves. User groups and supporters will be alienated and less likely to spend their money in these areas. How the Forest Service (under the USDA) can allow mining, forestry, hunting, and other recreational groups, but not allow for safe and responsible climbing is mind boggling.

In summary, this foolish, heavy-handed, big government, Draconian approach is a waste of money and resources and it will endanger people's lives. Actually removing hardware that allows climbers to safely return to the ground is the most ridiculous idea I have ever heard from the Forest Service. I just don't understand why the FS would want to put climber's lives at greater risk. It defies logic and is unreasonable.