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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the Forest Service Team.

Thank you for all your work, and for trying to ensure the long-term sustainability and beauty of our forests areas, in light of increased climbing usage and adverse land impacts. I have been a climber for the last four years, and that is the primary context of my visitation of national forests. I always practice leave no trace principles, and seek to walk off or use non-permanent anchors whenever possible. However, I have come across many situations where this is not possible, especially in locations like Utah, and many parts of Colorado, including iconic climbing towers, where walk offs are not available. There is a rich legacy of climbing history that already exists, and a lot of sacrifice of time and money from individual climbers who have added fixed anchors where needed, to allow me and other climbers to descend from the top of a climbing route safely, and to prevent people from practicing irregular descents, which can be more dangerous (using insufficient equipment, taking walk-offs that are not established, etc), and can be more visually obtrusive than a well-established, standard descent with a fixed anchor where necessary.

As a climber, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in national forests remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of national forest areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable national forest experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in national forest areas.