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Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS Representative,

Thank you for your time in reading my note today. I'm writing to urge you to strongly consider some modifications to your new guidance proposal: FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524.

I understand the view that having bolts in rock in wilderness areas seems contradictory, but I want to urge the USFS to consider what kind of impact this is really having, outside of a theoretical one. These are recreational lands that are going to be used by climbers, regardless of the red tape that gets put in place. Keeping climbers safe seems to me to be of utmost importance. I am absolutely not advocating for just putting a bolt in every 5 feet of every wilderness chunk of rock, but preventing the upkeep or replacement of existing fixed protection just seems like a very bad idea. Require permits for new bolts and anchors, fine, but making it more difficult to adequately maintain existing routes that are known and attempted by hundreds, perhaps thousands of climbers per year just seems like you are asking to increase the amount of tragic accidents that happen in wilderness areas.

I just don't see why so much effort has to be put in to limit and prohibit activity in the wilderness when it comes to climbers. Hikers are overcrowding trails and lakes everyday, and where is the conversation about getting rid of all the "fixed" signs letting hikers know where they are? That is actually impeding on the average person's experience of the wilderness. Fixed protection is helping* the climber's experience of the wilderness.

Thanks,

Patrick