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Comments: Hello,

I would like to voice my opinion on the change to the Fixed Anchor systems within the NFS system

The majority of my life I have made use of the national Forest system. In my early years, I learned to hunt and fish in the Allegheny National Forest of Pennsylvania. After college, I learned to hike and explore the mountains of Colorado through all the interconnected national forest lands, and currently I am experiencing the deep Appalachian Mountain of the Pisgah in North Carolina.

I have seen the extensive use of the national forest system by many user groups in many areas. Some user groups have good/no impact, while others can completely ruin and change the habitat.

-In the NFS of PA, I saw the benefit of having managed timber resources. Learning that both old growth stand should remain, while other managed stands could be harvested for timber and provide browse for native animals.

-However, I also saw the NFS grant oil and gas permits which, completely changed and ruined the natural landscape of wild forests (see salmon creek near Marienville, PA).

Regarding the fixed anchor policy that is not proposed, I find it completely unacceptable to consider the user groups of climbers a negative aspect of the system. Through many users group and meet ups, climbers have shown to actually care for and improved habit of the NFS.

Considering the overall low impact and improved safety fixed anchors bring to the experiences, there should be no banned on the use of fixed anchors. Fixed anchor can help habitat but removing the wear and tear of having traffic on the top of cliff band.

They also can help in the experience of self-rescue and prevent future accidents from occurring.

Climbing is a valid outdoor activity and should be granted the same level of decorum to self-managed their activities.

It is extremely short sighted to start to issue a policy prohibiting the use of fixed anchors. Considering the past approvals the NFS which as granted use-cases(see oil and gas) which can completely change the landscape for centuries if not permanently, it should be focus on trying to remedy those misgivings.

Regards,

Mike Nalevanko