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Organization:

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Comments: I am a climber/canyoner and want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in national forests remain available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness 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 designated areas.

Please do not have non-climbers/canyoners writing laws for climbers/canyoners to follow. For example, I submit that webbing anchors left in place can be a viable option. I could retrieve all anchors, but to do so may: 1) create grooves in the rock from dragging rope over soft sandstone, 2) increases the likelihood of the rope/anchor getting stuck in a crack or on a bush during retrieval. This is an unsafe condition for a climber to encounter, requiring them to cut the rope short and leaving some behind, or climbing the stuck rope to unstick it, which is something I will not do since in most cases I cannot see what the rope/webbing is stuck on, 3) retrieval attempt may return the rope but anchor material is more likely to get stuck than if there is webbing and a quick link to extend the anchor from the tree or rock, 4) some types of anchors do not lend themselves to leaving nothing behind, like a cairn anchor or a buried 'deadman' anchor, 5) most anchors are in drainages where no one goes besides canyoners, who are thankful to use remaining webbing if it passes inspection.

Let's be prudent with anchors and increase safety for those who dare to adventure where few actually go. Let's also create solutions for actual problems and not make climbing/canyoning more dangerous.