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Comments: 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 don't think the presence of small, hand-placed pieces of hardware compromises the natural experience the public seeks out in National Forests. To the contrary, the small numbers of inobtrusive fixed hardware pieces better enable members of the public to experience the outdoors. Surely the impact of small numbers of fixed hardware pieces in the National Forests is far less than logging, snowmobiling, motorized four-wheel driving, and other public uses for which the National Forests also are managed.

Many of the world's finest climbing areas are in National Forest areas in the United States. It would be a shame to make it harder for future generations to experience the joys of climbing in these areas by prohibiting/removing the inobtrusive fixed anchors. Yet at the same time, the parts of the National Forests that are used for climbing are very, very small compared to the total acreage of National Forest the Forest Service manages. Banning/removing fixed hardware thus would have an outsized impact on a single user group that uses only a small amount of National Forest land.

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 the National Forests without compromising the wilderness experience.