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Comments: I have more than once come across a belay or rappel station climbing in the Cascades that was covered in slings. Knowing that nylon and dyneema both degrades in direct sunlight I was faced with the choice of hoping the slings would hold, or adding yet another sling to the pile. I've also been in situations where we had to add a sling in addition to a fixed anchor since the hardware was old and potentially unreliable. Both of these situations created an unnecessary hazard as well as an unsightly pile of slings.

Adding new restrictions and bureaucracy to replace bolts will only make this problem worse.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbing gear, limiting the use of them will increase objective danger when climbing, as well create unsightly piles of slings on routes. Placing, replacing, or repairing a fixed bolt used for belaying or rappelling should never be prohibited on established routes.

Using painted hardware that matches the environment to drastically reduce the visibility of hardware, while keeping climbers safe on routes.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

I hope this policy is reconsidered and written in a way that better aligns to preserving America's rich climbing history for future generations.