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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings USDA Forest Service and thanks for allowing comments on the proposed directives on fixed bolts. I would like to share that I am in total disagreement with the proposed directive on fixed anchors. I am a climber and was an outdoor educator for many years. Through the process of climbing in the magnificent forest service land within the United States, I have garnered a deeper relationship for wilderness and a more natural feeling of protection of those places. To want to protect our earth, we must go play and be in those wild places. I feel this proposed ban would interrupt that path to caring for wilderness. As climbers we have for years been able to judge the appropriate use of bolts in wilderness. And over the years with the explosion of free climbing, clean climbing is the way. People don't want to spend more money than they need to on bolts when establishing routes. These people are providing a great service to their fellow rock loving Americans and if we create more red tape for these fine people, it is harmful to our sport and those that want to experience wilderness. We know that climbing is an acceptable way to recreate in wilderness. If we started removing fixed anchors (bolts) we would be left with tat, ropes, cord all over the mountains and would like be killing trees used for anchors and creating unsafe environments for future climbers. The extra money it would cost the Forest Service to begin evaluating all routes in wilderness would be wasteful. The time and energy for permits would be wasteful. It is unreasonable to ask someone exactly how many bolts will you place on a route. In the past decades climbers have come a long way in managing our bolts and replacing them when they are unsafe. Largely thanks to the American Safe Climbers Association. I understand the intent of this draft but find it ultimately unpractical, unsafe, and a waste of tax payer dollars. Thanks for reading.