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Comments: I'm opposed to the proposed management policies restricting the installation of climbing anchors because of the restrictions these policies would impose on the use of our public lands. There's a long legacy of climbing which is part of American culture, with a high proportion of climbing on public lands. Restricting installation of new anchors would negatively impact safety and essentially eliminate the new routes thereby restricting climbing advancement. Climbers proactively maintain fixed anchors, both through organizations such as ASCA and individually, and anchor management for safety is not needed. Also, management of climbing anchors would be impractical and difficult to enforce.

Climbing has a low impact on the land and natural ecosystems, and it is compatible with other land uses. In areas with compelling reasons to limit or prohibit anchors, appropriate restrictions could still be imposed as needed without a blanket nationwide ban. In summary, climbing is a historical activity and appropriate use of public lands, and I oppose the management of fixed anchors and prohibition of new anchors due to the subsequent decrease of climber safety and tremendous reduction of climbing access.

Thank you for considering these comments.