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Comments: I am 62 and have been climbing for just over 40 years. I'm a lifelong user of Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests and multiple wilderness areas, mainly in Linville Gorge, Red Rocks (NV), Sierra Nevada/Yosemite. The policies you are proposing will negatively impact something that is an important and wholesome activity that for many is a safe, responsible and healthy lifestyle/pastime. Perhaps there are better ways than new policy rules for the NFS to be involved with the aspects of rock climbing such as installing or not installing fixed anchor and establishing new routes. How about hiring climbers and showing up at the crags and climbing competitions and events at gyms to provide education about local areas traditions, leave no trace, climbing impact, etc. I never see forest service employees/rangers at the climbing areas. Why create rules that cannot be enforced.

In summary:

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.