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Comments: Dear USFS,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed directives. As someone who enjoys spending time outdoors climbing, hiking, backpacking, and skiing, I am concerned that the proposed directives declaring anchors as "installations" may overly and unfairly restrict climbing compared to other outdoors activities, while it is not evident that climbing more negatively impacts the wilderness in comparison to these other activities.

For example, I don't quite understand how fixed anchors for climbing more obtrusive than hiking trails or hiking trail signage (eg, trail mileage posts or colored spots/signs on trees to mark a trail). In my opinion, many climbing anchors are "substantially unnoticeable" - they are sometimes hard to find even if you are looking for them! Moreover there are fewer climbers than hikers, and in my experience there are far more casual hikers who are uneducated about the Leave-No-Trace rules and leave a greater impact on Mother Nature.

Fixed anchors are a necessity to enable climbers to safely enjoy their sport, and are less obtrusive than alternatives such as a sling around a tree. Additionally, fixed anchors and routes on established trails actually decrease the need for climbers to search for routes, potentially inadvertently harming vegetation in doing so.

I am especially concerned that subjecting new and replacement fixed anchors to Minimum Requirements Analysis would introduce unnecessary bureaucratic burden for both the federal government and for climbers, and if fixed anchors could not be replaced in a timely fashion it would increase risk of injury or death for climbers. It is my hope that installation and replacement of fixed anchors can continue to be managed by the climbing community, but would welcome guidance from the USFS on reasonable and safe guidelines (eg, camouflaging bolts to minimize visibility, while keeping 6-10 ft of distance between bolts for sport climbing).

I have climbed in 5 different areas outdoors, all of them within the USFS and BLM jurisdictions. If strict regulations were introduced by the USFS it's imaginable that the BLM would follow suit, and that would effectively eliminate sport climbing for me and my fellow climbers. I sincerely hope the USFS will make a decision that will still allow me to safely enjoy a sport I love in the outdoors I love.

Thank you for your consideration.