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Comments: U.S.F.S. Regarding new section 2355 of the Forest Service Manual.

I am a life long resident of Washington state and have been climbing since 1972. Although I am only an occasional participant now, I have serious concerns regarding the new proposal for management of fixed anchors in both Wilderness and Non-Wilderness areas.

First of all, why is this even up for discussion? The judicious placement of fixed anchors on popular climbs is a SAFETY issue. As climbing is a recognized and legitimate activity on USFS lands, why would you encourage climbers to take unnecessary risks which could result in serious injury or death?

The climbs that people do often lack sufficient natural resources to make a safe rapel station. Also. It is better for the natural resources (trees) to not be used as wrapping webbing around them eventually causes damages. A well placed bolt is a much better solution. I cannot fathom why this solution would be outlawed.

Then, how can an under resourced staff possibly monitor replacement of unsafe bolts or the requests to place new bolts? In the interim, climbers may risk serious injury or death due to the USFS staff being unable to do this additional work. I cannot imagine why this proposal even exists.

Please reconsider why this is proposed, how or if it would protect resources, how it can effect climber safety and how or if staff could monitor bolt replacement or installation.

Respectfully yours,

Linda J Givler