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First name: Brandt

Last name: Mannchen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service (FS),

These are my personal comments about the proposed FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities, #ORMS-3524, which deals with using fixed climbing anchors in Wilderness.

This proposal is illegal because it violates the Wilderness Act which doesn't allow installations and structures. Installations and structures include permanent fixed climbing anchors. By allowing this the FS degrades the wild character of Wilderness. I don't support any fixed climbing anchors in Wilderness. This proposal should be rejected.

Recreation can't be allowed to violate the Wilderness Act, Wilderness character, and untrammeled Wilderness. Convenience isn't an excuse to violate the Wilderness Act. In Wilderness we are visitors who take the risks that Nature provides. In Wilderness, Nature calls the shots. Recreation is subsumed and subservient to Wilderness, Wilderness character, and untrammeled Wilderness.

The FS must protect Wilderness, Wilderness character, and untrammeled Wilderness and not pander to political forces and people who want to tame, not accept on its own basis, wild Wilderness.

Opportunities for primitive recreation don't overrule the Wilderness Act, Wilderness character, and untrammeled Wilderness. The FS is required to safeguard these from recreation that doesn't meet these conditions.

Climbing without permanent fixed anchors is usually compatible with Wilderness preservation. If fewer people climb routes in Wilderness because they don't have fixed bolts or other permanent-installed protection, this is OK in Wilderness since the FS is supposed to protect, not infringe on, Wilderness, Wilderness character, and untrammeled Wilderness. The FS shouldn't cater to unlimited expansion of climbing in Wilderness at the expense of what makes Wilderness itself and meaningful, the wild Nature of Wilderness, Wilderness character, and untrammeled Wilderness.

There are many other places to climb if a person needs to use fixed climbing anchors. Wilderness doesn't need to be degraded to meet their convenience and lack of expertise.

Wilderness is a landscape that is rare. We have less than 3% of our land in the Lower 48 States that designated as Wilderness. Even this small amount of land is threatened by rapidly escalating recreation pressures.

If the FS proposes fixed climbing anchors in Wilderness, this must require public notice and a public review and comment period that is appropriate via the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

I oppose this proposal and request its rejection by the FS.