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First name: Joe

Last name: Kreidel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello -

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed regulations regarding fixed anchors to the Forest Service Manual.

I am a long time hiker, backpacker and rock climber who has traveled extensively across the United States to enjoy the beauty, grandeur and recreational opportunities afforded by our public Forest Service lands. I lived in Tucson, AZ for eight years, and was fortunate enough to have Coronado National Forest as y backyard, climbing and hiking all over Mt. Lemmon. As a father, it has been an incredible privilege to share these experiences wiith my children, and is something I look forward to doing for many more years.

The proposed rule changes regarding fixed anchors for climbing will have a severe impact on recreational rock climbing on USFS land. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of safety equipment that allow climbers to safely recreate in wildy vertical terrain.

Reclassifying anchors as an 'installation' per the Wilderness Act will make most climbing in National Parks inaccessible. Climbing has a long and vibrant history on Forest Service land, and the Wilderness Act recognizes climbing as a recreational activity compatible with the Act. Much has changed in climbing since then, and there are legitimate and nuanced ways climbing can be regulated within the USFS. But I believe these proposed changes create safety concerns for climbers and creates an unfunded mandate for already overworked and underfunded land managers to manage something that ultimately has very little impact on the wilderness character of an area.

I would encourage the USFS not to adopt these proposed changes.

Thank you,

Joe Kreidel