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Comments: Thank you for your work to effectively manage rock climbing as a legitimate use of FS and FS Wilderness lands. I am a climber and have enjoyed this activity for many years in many areas of the US. I understand that fixed anchors can have an impact on these areas like any other recreation infrastructure, although somewhat smaller than a road or trail, and certainly less than hunting or taking of an animal. Please consider that good quality fixed anchors limit the use of systems that impact vegetation or are of poor quality and might lead to accidents. Please also consider that fixed anchors are a very small impact but allow for safe passage for climbers to travel across rock faces. They are certainly less impactful than the tens of thousands of miles of trails that are laid across wilderness areas all over the nation.

It is a bit hard to understand the proposal but it seems like there would be a special application process for fixed anchors. This seems burdensome to the FS and complicated for a climber intending to establish a new route or update protection on an existing one (a very small subset of the climbing population as it is). Clear guidance around best practices on bolting would be preferred- examples include bolts colored to match the rock, and non-mechanized drills in wilderness areas.

I appreciate that the proposed directive intends to authorize additional special use permits for guided opportunities for rock climbing. Professional guides operating with permitted access are able to effectively teach and lead others on minimum impact experiences that open this activity to many people of all backgrounds.