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Organization:

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Comments: Dear United States Forest Service,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed restriction on establishing new climbing routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands. I believe this approach is unenforceable and has the potential to create confusion among land managers and climbers.

Restricting new routes solely to "existing climbing opportunities" may not be practical and could lead to difficulties in enforcement. It is crucial to recognize that climbing landscapes are dynamic, and opportunities for new routes may arise as the terrain evolves or as climbers seek new challenges. A rigid restriction based solely on existing opportunities could stifle the natural progression and creativity within the climbing community.

I urge the USFS to reconsider this restriction and instead focus on maintaining opportunities for new anchors unless and until thorough analyses determine that climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources. This approach ensures a balance between preserving the environment and allowing for the natural evolution of climbing areas.

By allowing for ongoing analyses, the USFS can make informed decisions about whether specific climbing activities pose a threat to cultural or natural resources. This adaptive approach acknowledges the dynamic nature of climbing landscapes and ensures that restrictions are based on comprehensive assessments rather than arbitrary limitations.

In conclusion, I encourage the USFS to adopt a more flexible and informed stance on the establishment of new climbing routes. This will not only prevent confusion among land managers and climbers but also contribute to the sustainable and responsible management of non-Wilderness climbing areas.

Thank you for considering my comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Colby Frechette