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First name: Morgan

Last name: Boyles

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Morgan Boyles and I have lived in Colorado for over 30 years. I am a life long climber AND a Wilderness advocate. For two years I worked for Wilderness Workshop a local conservation group in the Roaring Fork Valley. Currently I run a ski hut system that operates on USFS land with a special use permit.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed USFS policy that would classify fixed anchors as "installations" and require an MRA for their use.

You can not climb without fixed anchors (slings, bolts, fixed nuts, pitons, etc). They are an essential part of a climber's safety system and the USFS should not be, nor should it want to be, involved in a climber's safety decisions. Without fixed anchors it is impossible to descend from a route. Many of my conservation heroes including David Brower, Doug Tompkins, Yvon Chouinard found their love of Wilderness through their passion for climbing.

The USFS has allowed the use of fixed anchors and the climbing communities discretion on where to use them for over sixty years. The USFS has many tools for regulating climbing activities on the forest when there are concerns about its impact. Climbers, as a group, are very receptive to these regulations when it comes to nesting birds, impacts of trails, group sizes etc.

I strongly support the Access Fund's position and recommended policies on the fixed anchor topic. The USFS policy proposal is an unnecessary step that would create unnecessary work for the agency, alienate a supportive user group, create unsafe conditions for climbers, and severely impact this user groups access to public lands.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my comments and work on this issue.

-Morgan Boyles