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First name: Roger

Last name: Romani

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing to request that you not implement the proposed ban on new climbing anchors on USFS land. This ban would negatively impact climber safety, as it would prevent climbers from safely descending from new routes when weather or adverse conditions prevent them from completing their ascent. Climbers need fixed anchors to descent from partway up routes.

Additionally, the ban as proposed would make it very difficult to maintain existing anchors. Many anchors of older designs need to be replaced after decades of use, exposing climbers to deadly consequences if they are not replaced.

Finally, the proposed ban would prevent the appropriate exploration of our public lands. Climbers need to make in-the moment decisions about where to place anchors in complex vertical terrain, meaning that the proposed ban would effectively prevent the development of any safe, modern routes on public land.

Please do not implement the ban as proposed. Guidance for the climbing community about anchor appearance, maintenance, etc., is appropriate, as is removing individual anchors which threaten public lands, but a blanket ban (unless otherwise permitted) is not.