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Comments: I appreciate that the USFS is providing a feedback mechanism for the community to air their concerns about the recent policy directive (FSM 2355) around fixed anchors regulations in our public lands.

In reviewing the FSM 2355 directive it is clear much time, effort and expertise has gone into creating this proposal. I believe that the aim of the policy is admirable and agree we should have a framework around how and where fixed anchors are placed. It's clear that everyone involved on either side of the issue wants to preserve our great climbing areas for many years to come.

Having personally been involved in sustainable rebolting practices in the Pacific Northwest and being a devout climber now of nearly a decade I can attest to the need for better practices and greater scrutiny in our more sensitive natural areas. I have seen myself the impact humans can make on a climbing area when gone unchecked or without the proper infrastructure in place.

In recent years we have seen our forest services paired down and their budgets slashed. We've even seen parks closed or services reduced because of these changes. If this directive were to be passed in its current form I believe it would be unattainable for such financially deficient and understaffed park services to implement them. I personally worry that we could lose permanent access to some of our most cherished climbing due to bureaucracy and budgeting.

The climbing community has done a relatively good job of self policing and organizing up to this point though as climbing grows with parks attendance it is clear something more formal is needed to move forward. I hope there is a continued conversation between the parks service and the climbing community to better refine this policy and future stewardship. The climbing community would be happy to volunteer much time and effort towards being a partner with the parks service and using our expertise with yours to allow for more equitable decisions and action as it pertains to fixed anchors.

While I see FSM 2355 as a great draft starting point the conversation needs to continue with all of the stakeholders on board. Please know that you can count on the climbing community to assist in the journey every step along the way as our passion for the sport of climbing and beauty of nature is second to none. I've personally been significantly changed by what climbing has taught me and am forever grateful to those lessons and it hurts my heart to think others may not have that same opportunity to be bolstered by climbing like I have.

I plead with you, please work with climbers and local climbing organizations to help in the policy process and all downstream actions needed as a result.

Thank you for taking such care and dedication in your lives personally and professionally to steward our great lands we know today and thank you for taking into consideration my concerns.