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Comments: Dear USFS

First off I'd like to thank you to all the employees of the USFS! I've just spent a year visiting and recreating in so many beautiful forests and wildernesses around the US and each one was deserving of my love, admiration, and passion. The employees I interacted with were kind and knowledgeable; their passion for preserving Americas most beautiful places was inspiring.

I'm writing on behalf of the climbing community. I feel the new proposal on fixed anchors put forth by the USFS has good intentions but goes too far to regulate an issue that the climbing community already regulates with good results. We want to be as safe as possible while climbing in these great wildernesses and beyond. The proposal would actually make being safe harder on us. I know of a few examples in Joshua Tree where well placed bolted anchors would not only keep climbers safe but also reduce the impact of climbing on the surrounding environment. There are also areas where I think we should have less bolts, some walls in Red Rock Canyon are basically grid bolted and I feel this does diminish the natural beauty of this area. These two opposing views are actual held by the majority of climbers and goes to show that a blanket permit system is not the right avenue to take. Because of the complexity and uniqueness of each climb the permit system would just bog down an already short staffed system. I do support the Protecting America's Rock Climbing act and America's Outdoor Recreation Act, these are a great way to start having the USFS more involved in the climbing community's favorite past time.