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Comments: I climb at the Stone Hill crags in the Kootenai National Forest near Rexford, Montana. Stone Hill has about 650 climbing routes -- more than 500 of them were established prior to 2003. Anchor standards have changed since 2003; the American Safe Climbing Association (who has donated close to 100 anchor sets to the Northwest Montana Climbers Coalition) in 2024 considers nearly three-quarters of Stone Hill's anchors outdated and encourages that they be replaced. The proposed legislation for Wilderness Areas says "existing fixed anchors and fixed equipment in wilderness may be retained pending completion of a Minimum Requirements Analysis, as funding and resources allow." Applying this standard to National Forests (as well as Wilderness) can potentially have deadly consequences. For the last four years, the Northwest Montana Climbers Coalition, a nonprofit organization made of several hundred members that focuses on "replacing anchors, building trails, hosting events, protecting access ... and keeping the climbing areas you love open, accessible, and as safe as possible" has been "updating the safety" of these old routes, replacing corrosive steel 3/8 in. "washer stack" anchors with 1/2 in. stainless steel hanger and chain sets. As of 2023, nearly 100 substandard safety anchors have been replaced with hardware that will last for the next 50+ years. Requiring an MRA for anchors in the Kootenai National Forest would greatly impede the efforts of the Northwest Montana Climbers Coalition to "assess safety in the moment" and update these existing routes almost immediately to make them "safety compliant" to a 2024 standard. It is very scary to think that this essential safety work would be delayed or might not even be allowed if the "funding and resources" of the National Forest are not available. Since the mid-1970s, the Rexford Ranger District has allowed climbers to solely "manage" these sorts of decisions at Stone Hill crags and, as of 2023, climbers continue to have a great working relationship with the district. Climbers know safety best - the Forest Service needs to continue to allow climbers to manage this aspect of climbing on all public lands, unprohibited, like the Rexford District has so that this growing sport can continue to be safe for many, many years to come.