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Comments: To whom this may concern,

As a mountain guide with over 30 years of experience, I am extremely alarmed about the proposed changes to fixed anchors in the wilderness. This would present a serious safety concern if people lose the ability to safely descent from climbing routes and mountains via fixed anchors. It is imperative that anchors need to be periodically maintained, such as replacing worn out slings or aging bolts. Trying to require pre approval to do so, is both impractical and illogical as most climbers will not know that an anchor needs to be maintained until they are there getting ready to use it on their descent.

At a time when funding seems limited for basic things like maintaining trails and staffing seasonal positions, this appears to be another unfunded mandate that will both cause an upset public as well as frustration to land managers that lack the resources or expertise to develop a climbing management plan.

Finally, this feels like a proposed change to a non problem. For decades there has been climbing and the establishment and use of fixed anchors on public land. The main impact of these anchors is a positive one for the climbers that use these anchors. Why would this change be beneficial to anyone? It makes climbing less safe and could possibly require more rescues on USFS land and add work to an agency already struggling to meet its mandates. Please consider abandoning or dramatically modifying this proposed plan.