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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock Climbing is an integral part of the history and legacy of America's public lands. Climbers of various levels of expertise, including some with disabilities, depend on fixed anchors for safety during a climb and sometimes are the only way of returning to the ground. Removing those anchors under the proposed directive could create a nightmare of potential rescue calls, accidents due to the anchors having been removed on routes for which climbing "topos" (route descriptions with bolt and anchor locations marked) have been published and widely circulated for many years. The potential for injuries, rescue costs and even loss of life if this guideline is enforced and liability issues for USFS could be enormous. I strongly oppose removing any existing climbing anchors for which route descriptions have been widely published.

I strongly support giving climbing organizations The Access Fund and American Safe Climbing Association a place at the table for any decisions on climbing anchor management on USFS lands. I also strongly request that no action on this proposal be taken until the legislation currently before the U.S. Congress is decided.