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Comments: I strongly encourage the USFS not to classify fixed anchors as prohibited installations, and to revise its draft policy to ensure the safety of rock climbers while continuing to protect Wilderness areas. Creating red tape through a required Minimum Requirements Analysis before allowing new and replacement anchors puts climbers at risk by preventing climbers from making quick safety calls to replace or add fixed anchors, including in-the-moment decisions.

Additionally, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is vague, highly subjective and unenforceable, and will create confusion. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless there is a specific restriction on climbing to protect cultural and natural resources.

I started climbing about 8 years ago, and have been lucky enough to go on climbing adventures in spectacular places, including a multi-pitch trad adventure in the Linville Gorge Wilderness. I've only seriously gotten into climbing in the past year and a half, though, and in that time I have mostly climbed single-pitch sport routes in Colorado. Sport climbing, when the bolts are properly maintained, is both incredibly fun, and much safer than traditional climbing (without fixed gear). I've seen the difference between well-maintained bolted routes in Rifle Mountain Park and the older, less well-maintained bolt systems in Independence Pass. As the sport of climbing grows, it is imperative for the climbing community and land stewards to manage that growth responsibly, including by ensuring the safety of climbers and prioritizing proper bolt maintenance.

As a newer climber, iconic and longstanding routes in places like Rocky Mountain and Zion National Parks are on my to-do list but not yet my "tick list". The USFS' proposed guidance could prevent me from accessing climbs in places like these, if fixed anchors are not properly maintained, or are removed altogether.

For decades, climbers have been responsible for assessing and replacing fixed anchors during climbing activities-not land managers, who may have no climbing expertise. I urge you to update and clarify your guidance to respect climbers' expertise in their sport, and continue entrusting climbers to maintain and replace fixed anchors in wilderness areas.

I hope that the USFS revises its guidance to balance protecting Wilderness areas with ensuring the safety of climbers who responsibly enjoy-and fight to protect-those areas.