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Title:

Comments: I frequently climb on USFS administered lands, both in and out of wilderness areas. Bolted routes and bolted anchors provide a safe way to do that. The USFS, in most places in the west, is not capable of managing land uses with current capacity and funding. Ans, it is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have authorized and/or funded them for half a century. In fact, it makes no sense for you to create new policies now, when you cannot enforce the existing ones (and this goes for almost all of the land uses, climbing aside). You do not have the capacity, nor the capability, to do your job's now, so why would you create an unnecessary policy that increases the likelihood that the public gets hurts? It is not sensible. Fixed anchors are an integral part of a climbers' safety system and prohibiting them will create unnecessary safety issues, obstruct appropriate exploration, and threaten America's rich climbing legacy. In addition, federal agencies have done very little to develop, install, or maintain climbing safety equipment; the climbing community, who police themselves much better than the federal agencies ever could, has take on that responsibility. The climbing community is also a major component of the education and outreach that occurs in these iconic places; these interactions are much more powerful and frequent that one's by federal agency staff. In my experiences, as a naturalist and climber, those interactions, when magnified across the climbing community, are more impactful than anything that the federal agencies could achieve alone. Instead of creating policies that put land managers at odds with their visitors and the public, you should create guidance and policies that bring groups together to develop collaborative solutions to these complex problems; you should be working with the climbing community, not against them.