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Comments: Having used fixed anchors on NFS lands on many occasions before, I'd like to add my personal point of view to the discussion. For myself and thousands of other climbers (some of which I personally know) - access to rock and ability to use fixed anchors is vital for our happiness, well-being, and ability to safely practice our sport. Vast majority of fixed anchors are completely invisible to a casual observer from the ground and would not disturb anyone's ability to enjoy the NFS land. However, for climbers they are vital resource and a safety net for both scaling rocks and safely descending them.

For many decades climbers around the world have safely managed the anchors, educated each other about inspecting anchors and replacing them as needed. This system has worked great in the past and is getting even better considering safer and more rust-proof hardware that is currently in use and more widespread knowledge available to us. We've had some accidents in the past and learned a lot from them about lifespan of particular anchors as well appropriate anchors for specific environments and rock types. This can be evidenced by a huge increase in participants in the sport of rock climbing with barely an increase in the number of accidents in the last 20 years that I have taken part in this activity.

In my opinion climbers have done an amazing job managing fixed anchors on NFS lands and should be allowed to continue to do so with no change to current regulations. Fixed anchors provide much less obstruction to the enjoyment of the environment in every location and much less so than established hiking trails, signage, etc., while arguably playing a much bigger role in safety of climbers.