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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express concern about potential new regulations regarding climbing in wilderness areas in the United States. I have traveled to the Red River Gorge and Red Rock Canyon specifically to climb, including on Forest Service land. I have many more aspirations to travel to more Forest Service land to climb. I am concerned that the proposed plan of managing bolted anchors and other fixed gear will create too much of a burden for these fixtures to be maintained, resulting in a de facto ban on them. This creates risk for climbers - bolted anchors are much more safe to belay from than ones built with our own trad climbing gear. They also reduce the likelihood that climbers leave behind gear such as slings, cams, nuts, carabiners when we have to bail from a route. That kind of tat is much more dangerous and displeasing visibly than bolts. Bolts last a long time and climbers have a culture of inspecting them and replacing them when we come across ones that need to be replaced. Leaving the monitoring of fixed gear to managers who may not know much about climbing and who don't have the time to review every existing or proposed bolt is not efficient or the safest way to maintain them. This proposed regulation could effectively kill climbing in many areas that thrive off being a climber destination - Slade, KY wouldn't have 20% of the business it has there without climbers.