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First name: Brandon

Last name: Gottung

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I began my career as a biological science technician for the National Park Service in 2009, and began climbing shortly after in 2010. I've traveled throughout the southwest for both work, working in 42 different National Park Service units and for climbing on my off-time. The U.S. Forest Service manages many of my favorite climbing areas: Cochise Stronghold in Coronado National Forest, Wind River Mountains in Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Eastern Sierra in Inyo National Forest. Many of these areas are Wilderness. As a resource manager and a climber, I feel that restricted use of permanent anchors does not significantly affect the quality of the Wilderness. Permanent anchors provide a significant safety to climbers. Director's Order 41 §7.2 affirms that "climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness" and that "the occasional placement of a fixed anchor for belay, rappel, or protection purposes does not necessarily impair the future enjoyment of wilderness or violate the Wilderness Act."

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.