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Comments: Having read the proposed policy I understand the need for the regulation in wilderness climbing but as a member of the climbing community I have great concern on how this policy proposal will impact the wilderness experience of technical rock climbing. As a climber I often seek the adventure of doing a new route in a remote area but I also try to keep the margin of risk acceptable. There will always be danger in climbing but without a limited, judicious use of fixed anchors many routes in the wilderness will become inaccessible to all but the more elite climbers who have the ability to downclimb a route instead of rappelling.

I understand the policy would provide opportunity to leave anchors pending review but the reality of this seems infeasible. I have worked for the Forest Service in fire suppression and understand the limited resources that agencies have. The phrase "as funding allows" leaves a big grey area in my personal opinion. My experiences as a fisheries biologist and in wildland fire have given me the insight to the many complex resource challenges we face. Climbers have always been strong advocates and I believe this proposal would alienate a valuable user group in terms of stewardship. Additionally, having had a perspective on how wildfire and suppression impacts can affect wilderness it seems this focus on fixed anchors does not follow the priority list of what really impacts wilderness resources and values

I will close this with a proposal to allow individual management units to work with local climbers to construct a climbing plan that takes into account the areas values, culture and history of climbing, size of the user group and impact on various resources. I really believe this one size fits all policy is not appropriate for effective management of rock climbing as an acceptable use.