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Comments: As a rock climber, I occasionally explore vertical wilderness areas for recreation. Returning home safely is always the goal. I rely on safe anchors for descending. Sometimes even with the greatest of care things don't go as planned and I would place anchors if the need arose. Many historical routes have been onsite first ascents with occasional placement of fixed anchor. This common, acceptable, and long-pursued wilderness exploration precludes permitting. Therefore, the guidelines should allow the occasional non-permitted placement of permanent anchors.

Although more time consuming to place, a metal bolt is less visible and less distracting than nylon slings, webbing, and cord, all of which are essential for exploring vertical wilderness. Regulations already exists that limit the use of metal bolt anchors just by the mere fact that no motorized equipment (drills, etc.) can be used in the wilderness.

The guideline assumes that all man-made equipment is labeled as 'installations' in the wilderness. There have been exceptions and 'grand-fathering' in the past. Prior to releasing the guidelines, a thorough review of past exceptions, and an analysis of the current fixed anchors should be done prior to labeling all fixed anchors as 'installations'. This would guide a new draft of the guidelines to exclude some or all fixed anchors as installations.

The history of the United States is in part the history of exploration. Climbing in and out of wilderness is exploration. The history of climbing has a role in the history of the USA. Banning maintenance of historical routes will prevent this and future generations to retrace the steps of this nation's history. Existing routes with fixed anchors should remain open and should continue to be maintained by climbers. Existing routes with poor, inadequate anchors should have their 'tats' upgraded to long lasting, almost invisible metal anchor systems.

As a recreational user of our public land, I am concerned that local offices, when faced with climbing related issues, will have the 'knee-jerk' reaction to implement Minimum Requirements Analysis. These unfunded MRAs will in fact be de-facto bans and permanent closures. A programmatic approach must be included in the guidelines to prevent this.