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Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed directives about climbing management. As a resident of Arizona, a lover of the outdoors, and an amateur rock climber, I believe the proposed directives will have a negative impact for me personally and the climbing community as a whole.

The ability to replace existing bolts, anchors, etc. is essential for safety of climbers. Adding bureaucratic hurdles to the timely replacement of damaged hardware will create unnecessarily dangerous and even life-threatening situations for climbers. In addition, the requirement to have approval before adding or replacing any gear will cause significantly more work for federal employees, considering the tens thousands of climbing routes that already exist on federal land.

Mt. Lemmon in the Coronado National Forest is my nearest climbing area, with over 3000 routes according to the Forest Service website. I enjoy many activities in the Coronado National Forest, including backpacking, camping, hiking, and rock climbing. All of these activities allow me to connect with nature and myself, but only climbing connects me to a community, too. The southern Arizona climbing community is large and strong, as well as composed of excellent stewards of the wilderness. There are regular events to teach about leave no trace principles and climbing safety, as well as volunteer opportunities for trash removal and other community services.

Federal agencies including USFS and NPS should work in conjunction with local climbing communities in order to develop or maintain sustainable policies around rock climbing. The current proposal will seriously restrict climbing safety and access, while adding another burden of management to federal employees.