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Comments: I'm responding to draft policy (FSM 2355) that would make fixed anchors (bolts, pitons, slings) prohibited in America's Wilderness areas. As a climber and user of America's National Forest one of my favorite experiences has been to climb and experience the wilderness areas that our country has to offer.

These new guidance policies will make it both dangerous and ruin the rich history of climbing in the United States. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers safety system and these new guidance policies will essentially make it imposal for the climbing community to due regular maintenance of these fixed anchors. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Fixed anchors needed for safety reasons are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It would be wrong for the federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Additionally, the climbing community is and has worked with local land managers for decades to find ways to both make climbing safe and protect the wilderness around us. The climbing community volunteers to strict climbing during bird nesting times, help create trails in and restore vegetation areas with guidance of local land managers. These policies will ruin this collaborative partnership that's been created and limit future projects that both groups might have interest in developing.

Lastly, Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could limit the next generation of Americans from enjoying the National Forest. Climbing is a growing recreational activity in the United States and Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal so future Americans can experience the wilderness as previous generations have.