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Comments: Hi - I am writing to provide a public comment on the proposed new rules within FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524.

I'm a devoted environmentalist, and I am an avid recreational rock climber. The current climbing regulations allow me to pursue my love of climbing without impacting the environment. However, the proposed new rules will make recreational rock climbing considerably more dangerous without providing any tangible benefits to the environment.

I object to the proposed new rules on the following grounds.

1) Fixed anchors are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act; they are essential parts of all climbers' safety systems. 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.

2) These proposed new rules are unwarranted in light of the long history of successful wilderness management by climbers as user group. It is especially unreasonable for 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.

3) Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors - a responsibility successfully undertaken and self-managed by the climbing community for decades. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance should continue to be self-managed by climbers themselves in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

4) Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

5) Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Do not enact these proposed new rules; they will only cause harm to climbers and they will provide no benefit to the environment.