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Comments: I am writing to express concern that the proposed climbing management plan is inconsistent with the US Forest Service's mission to meet the needs of present and future generations. The comment period did not state a time zone for closure and therefore I assumed I had the ability to comment while it is still January 30th. However it seems that the comment period closed on eastern time. Please consider my comments.

Fixed anchors are essential for climber's safety. As a long time member of Search and Rescue teams that serve high use climbing areas (Yosemite National Park and Wyoming's Wind River Range), I believe that it is irresponsible for the land managers of these areas to disallow climbers to use essential pieces of their safety system. Limiting fixed anchor use, as proposed in this plan, is likely to increase accidents and the need for rescues.

Climbers have long been responsible stewards of our own recreation and we voluntarily replace aging fixed anchors to improve safety for all users. The requirements outlined in this plan would make it more difficult or impossible for climbers to replace fixed anchors that have historically been in place, but are no longer safe, due to age.

As stated in the proposal "Climbing has long been an important and historically relevant form of primitive or unconfined recreation consistent with the wilderness character of many NFS wilderness areas." Climbing, particularly in wilderness areas, allows for a unique experience of our nation's amazing wilderness resources. To climb from the bottom of a rock face to the top, navigating complex, unexplored terrain is one of these experiences. At times this process of establishing a new route will require in the moment decisions, that fixed anchor use is necessary - either for safe upward progress or in order to descend where it is otherwise impossible. If this proposal moves forward as written, it will eliminate the ability to place fixed anchors without a process of evaluation. Therefore, it would remove the possibility for climbers of present and future generations to continue to explore our natural resources in a manner that is consistent with the activity's historical relevance.

Thank you for your consideration.