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Title:

Comments: I am a rock climber who spends considerable amount of time and energy responsibly using wilderness areas in national parks. I am particularly concerned about National Forest wilderness areas in Wyoming, California, Washington and Arizona, which contains some of the best alpine rock climbing in the world. Some of the most meaningful wilderness experiences of my life have been spent using fixed anchors in the Wind River Range, Bighorn Mountains and Tetons in Wyoming, the High Sierra in California, and Cochise stronghold in Arizona (photos attached). I used the occasional bolt or piton to increase safety, and required anchors for safe/rapid descent off mountain objectives. Climbers use these areas responsibly and they are vital to our safety. Furthermore, there is a precedent of 60+ years of climbers enjoying these PUBLIC lands. Rock climbing is not illegal; it is and has been a very legitimate way for us to enjoy wilderness areas in our national parks. Furthermore, wilderness climbers are very conscientious users of public lands and recreate responsibly. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of using, replacing and maintaining fixed anchors in designated wilderness areas.

I am also concerned that whomever the "forest supervisor" is that would be policing the legitimacy of installation of new routes would not reflect the needs of the climbing community when it comes to evaluating existing or proposed need.