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Comments: I am writing with serious concerns with the direction the USFS is taking with the recently released draft policies that would make fixed anchors prohibited in America's Wilderness areas.

These policies pose serious risk and safety concerns to the public that would have catastrophic consequences (and no doubt enact lawsuits that would plague the NPS from loss of life or limb of victims that suffer the consequences).

Rock climbing and alpine climbing have been sustainable outdoor pursuits in America and on our public lands for six decades. Rock climbing's popularity gains have led to it's inclusion in the Olympics and it's only growing in popularity. Rock climbing and alpine climbing have always relied to some extent on fixed anchors for safety.

Two years ago UNESCO declared Alpinist as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. Climbing is firmly established in cultures throughout the world and many climbers come from all over the world to climb the world-class rock and mountains in our Public Lands.

The policies in the draft that classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" in Wilderness areas are extremely problematic. They do not have the funding or infrastructure to support from the USFS, they are shortsighted and damaging to a cultural heritage long established in the U.S. as a means for experiencing the Wilderness, with and without a guide.??

I am a professional mountain guide, licensed internationally by the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA). My career and livelihood has been built around helping people achieve their goals and dreams in the mountains which has a major positive impact on their lives. With professional guides, many people who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the vertical landscapes our public lands offer to enjoy rock and alpine climbing, are able to experience trips of a lifetime. These experiences help the public understand, have greater respect and appreciation of Wilderness and they learn how to recreate responsibly under professional guidance. Many go on to pursue these endeavors on their own for the remainder of their lives.

I urge you to consider the serious impacts this policy could have to public safety and work with the PARC and AOR Acts that have received unanimous support earlier this year in Congress. This is the way forward to support safe, sustainable access to Wilderness climbing for current and future generations of outdoor enthusiasts.

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider my comments.

Respectfully,
Angela Hawse