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Comments: As an active climber of 48 years, I have an historic perspective of climbing in wilderness. Climbing in all its forms is a legacy use of our public lands; in many cases pre-dating the current level of designation and protection on said lands. Some of the most famous and iconic climbs in the entire world exist in designated wilderness in our National Parks and Monuments. and on Forest Service lands. There are many thousands of classic climbing routes, in designated Wilderness on Federal land. 98% of climbs cannot be climbed safely or reasonably without the ongoing use of fixed anchors. Without fixed anchors, those climbs cease to exist.

Those anchors need to be maintained and replaced from time to time to ensure safety. New route exploration similarly relies on the judicious placement of fixed anchors.

As a climber, I want to ensure that the continued use and maintenance of fixed anchors in designated Wilderness areas remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors are a necessary component of a sustainable Wilderness climbing experience.

Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in designated Wilderness areas.

Climbing is a treasured activity on our public lands, valued by climbers and other wilderness visitors as well. We must ensure this adventurous way to engage with our public lands remains viable. To designate fixed anchors as illegal installations would create an untenable situation. Climbing would be effectively banned or severely marginalized. As time takes its toll on the existing anchors, climbs like the countless routes on Forest Service lands, would become unsafe and eventually impossible. That would be a tragedy.