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Title:

Comments: In evaluating use of anchoring for rock climbing in NF and NP wilderness areas please consider that historic ascents have taken place on these lands. Humans are not aliens to our planet, but we are a natural part of the ecosystem as well. Eliminating human interactions with our natural environment creates a distance between the human experience and nature in which there is a lack of understanding about nature which leads to greater destruction of our natural areas, not more conservation. Rock climbing and mountain climbing in natural areas has been a sport for over 100 years. Failing to maintain anchors in our National Forests and National Parks- even in wilderness areas- leads to unsafe situations for climbers desiring to repeat historic routes on our public lands. I strongly believe that our public lands exist for the good of the public, not solely for the perfect preservation of the land. Responsible human interactions on these lands is a fantastic way for humans to become more in tune with nature and create a desire to care for our public lands. Rock climbers are a very respectful user group in their exercise of Leave No Trace principles. Please create regulations that allow for reasonable access to our public land and responsible recreation. For user safety, maintenance of existing fixed anchors is absolutely necessary to the sport of climbing.