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Comments: Hi there! I'm a frequent climber in Kentucky's Red River Gorge area. My safety, and the safety of hundreds of others, often depends on the existing and frequently updated fixed anchors on routes in Wilderness areas. I want to encourage the USFS to protect safe, sustainable access to Wilderness climbing.

Why?

- Fixed anchors are an essential piece of our safety systems, and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act.
- The current system isn't broken-you have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades, which has allowed climbers to safely and sustainably explore Wilderness areas across the country.
- Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community.
- Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.
- Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. The incredible climbing in the Red River Gorge allows more people to explore this incredible area in a way that's respectful and ongoing, and that requires fixed, maintainable anchors.
- Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers alike.

I'm deeply thankful for the work of the USFS, and hope you hear the voices of climbers across the country. No one appreciates the Wilderness more than we do.