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Title:

Comments: I am submitting my comment to strongly urge the USFS to reject this flawed evaluation of fixed anchors in wilderness areas. I have been climbing for over 15 years, and the policy as written demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the issues at hand. Fixed anchors are an essential component of rock climbing as a form of outdoor recreation. They have little to no impact on the wilderness qualities of a given area. Many commonly accepted activities on wilderness have a far greater impact—if you want to actually do something productive maybe consider removing private cattle grazing operations from wilderness before focusing on something this miniscule. In addition to the misplaced concern over fixed climbing anchors, the Forest Service should consider just how impossible this policy would be to enforce. I also work in the government sector, and understand issues of enforcement and compliance with regulations. A regulation that is impossible to enforce is pointless and just creates more bureaucracy. Your staff will be unable to adequately evaluate existing and new fixed anchor placements. This is an asinine and poorly thought out policy that deserves no further consideration. There are far greater threats to wilderness that you could be focusing on, why waste the limited resources you have on this topic? Please revise your policy to reflect the existing precedent that fixed anchors are a responsible component of rock climbing in wilderness areas.