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Comments: Dear National Forest Service,

I am reaching out to express my fervent support for the consideration of allowing permanent climbing fixtures, particularly bolts, in national forests. The National Forest Service holds a unique responsibility in managing these diverse ecosystems, and by embracing the use of permanent climbing fixtures, we can enhance safety, ensure equitable access, and acknowledge the spiritual aspects of climbing in these awe-inspiring environments.

Safety is a paramount concern for all outdoor activities, and climbers rely heavily on secure anchor points to navigate the diverse landscapes found within national forests. Permanent climbing fixtures, such as bolts, provide a consistent and reliable means of protection, reducing the inherent risks associated with temporary or makeshift anchors. This not only safeguards climbers but also contributes to the overall well-being of visitors, minimizing the strain on emergency services and allowing them to focus on true emergencies.

Equity of access is a fundamental principle that should guide our stewardship of public lands. Climbing, as a sport that captivates a diverse array of individuals, should be accessible to everyone, irrespective of their experience level or financial resources. Permanent climbing fixtures facilitate a more inclusive climbing environment by mitigating barriers to entry, making the activity more approachable for newcomers and fostering a sense of community among enthusiasts from all walks of life.

Furthermore, climbing is often a deeply spiritual experience for many individuals. National forests, with their majestic landscapes and pristine beauty, provide a unique backdrop for climbers to connect with nature on a profound level. Permanent climbing fixtures can help preserve the spiritual essence of these experiences by minimizing the impact on the environment. When carefully integrated into designated climbing areas, these fixtures allow climbers to engage in their pursuits without disrupting the natural serenity and spiritual energy of the forest.

In conclusion, I urge the National Forest Service to consider the integration of permanent climbing fixtures in national forests as a means to enhance safety, promote equitable access, and acknowledge the spiritual connection that climbers often seek. By doing so, we can strike a balance that respects the intrinsic value of these natural spaces while ensuring that they remain accessible and enjoyed by a diverse community of outdoor enthusiasts.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am confident that with thoughtful planning and collaboration, we can create a harmonious balance between the needs of climbers and the preservation of our cherished national forests.

Sincerely,

Jaysen