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First name: Chris

Last name: MacMurdo

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose additional regulation in regards to fixed anchors on National Forest Wilderness lands. As a climber and National Forest user, these regulations would increase risk for climbers, increase risk for rescuers, would limit access to wilderness lands and experiences, and would do little, if anything, to protect the land.

Fixed anchors are an important safety tool for climbers. Just like a trail in the wilderness, fixed anchors establish a route, and make it more accessible. There are already rules and regulations that govern fixed anchors, and more regulation is not needed, especially to replace anchors. Removal would just increase risk. Added regulation would be analogous to legislation that forces the removal of trails from wilderness, which would be dangerous and irresponsible.

Prohibiting anchors would obstruct access to wilderness areas. This would be akin to closing a mountain just because it didn't have a trail to the top. Public lands are public, meaning that there must be open access, as long as there isn't significant damage to the resource. In this case, bolts do not cause significant damage or impacts, especially where bolts are already present and just need to be replaced. There is already enough restrictions on establishing new routes, and no further unenforceable rules are needed. Climbers have long been sustainable users in the wilderness and need to be able to access those areas.

There is no way that the Forest service can enforce, police, and regulate these routes. They do not have the knowledge, skills, and funding to properly manage these resources.

The National Forest requires that multiple use be allowed on public lands. Climbing is one of those multiple uses.

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. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.