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Comments: Hi,

I am writing today to encourage you to reconsider the ban on fixed anchors in wilderness areas that is proposed in this new policy. Not only would the removal of the existing fixed anchors, which are currently allowed, eliminate the ability for people to travel from around the world to climb and experience historical routes, but it would also reduce the ability for parties to safely climb and explore in these areas. Additionally, 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.

By continuing to allow the appropriate placement and maintenance of fixed anchors in wilderness areas, the National Forest Service will be able to preserve and protect climbers' and other outdoor enthusiasts' safety and ability to explore America's beauty and complex vertical terrain.

Thank you for all that you do for our natural spaces. I hope that you can understand the importance of adapting this policy to continue allowing people to recreate safely in the future.

Best,

Kyle Struthers

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