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Comments: I highly urge the USFS to reassess the new proposed policies around Fixed Anchors.

Fixed hardware anchors are essential to safety for climbers. My brother suffered a near fatal accident that could have been easily avoided if there were fixed hardware anchors.

I highly urge the USFS to work with climbers and climbing organizations to come up with a new policy around the maintenance and installation of new fixed anchors. Technology around fixed anchors has come a very long way over the past few decades and in many climbing areas around North America and the world climbers have been able to come up with standards and policies around installing fixed anchors using hardware that is rated to last for many many decades. As well as new techniques to remove and update existing fixed anchors resulting in less damage to the rock.

As long as climbing is allowed in USFS areas fixed anchors are critical to climbing safety!!

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.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

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. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

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. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.