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First name: Mason

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

Climbing is a well- established use of wilderness and is legitimate just like other wilderness uses.

Fixed anchors are also well-established devices used to protect climbers both during ascent of otherwise unsafe expanses of rock, and as points of protection for safe belays and for safe escapes (rappelling). They have been used for half a century or more. They are not prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act.

Prohibiting fixed anchors or removing already existing anchors will create serious safety issues to climbers AND to the rescue squads dispatched in an emergency (at which point the rescue squads will be forced to create fixed anchors for safety reasons).

Often times the USFS installs fixed railings, trails, cairns/indicators (often installed by patrons) or other safety measures to help visitors safely traverse horizontal terrain. The USFS should allow the installation and maintenance of the minimal hardware required to allow park visitors to safely traverse vertical terrain as well.

The USFS has done well to conserve our beautiful spaces, and I'm grateful that they are in a state that my generation can enjoy. Some of my most memorable experiences are climbing in US forests. I feel that climbing is a low impact form of recreation that should be allowed to continue safely with the use of minimal bolting hardware. Please be thoughtful about limiting the ways in which my fellow climbers and I can recreate in our shared natural spaces.

Sincerely,

Mason McElvain