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Comments: Dear US forest service (National Park Service),

As an avid climber for the last 22 years I am very interested and concerned about the new policies you are developing regarding fixed anchors in America's wilderness lands. There are three points I would like to clarify initially that I feel are hard to dispute by anyone knowledgeable about climbing:

Climbing is a well-established traditional recreational use of our national parks and wilderness lands.

2. Fixed anchors are 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.

3. 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).

Please reconsider banning of fixed gear.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Brophy