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Title:

Comments: Dear USFS, as an avid climber I urge you to reconsider the proposed policy that would prohibit fixed anchors in America's wilderness areas. Federal agencies have allowed and managed fixed anchors for decades, which has allowed climbers to establish and enjoy some of the most iconic routes in the world. Prohibiting anchors would threaten America's climbing future, erase some of the world's most incredible climbing achievements, and diminish America's rich climbing history. Of course, I understand and respect that some routes might need to remain unclimbed in order to protect fragile ecosystems, certain plants and animals, tribal or cultural resources, etc. But if there are no such protections in place, allowing the climbing community to make inthe-moment safety decisions to judiciously replace dangerous or old bolts should be permitted in my opinion. 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. I wish nothing more than for the climbing community to continue our enjoyment of wilderness climbing while being sustainable and respecting the guidelines of USFS and other agencies. I humbly ask that as long as climbers are being respectful of these beautiful places, that federal agencies will permit judicious use of bolting and fixed anchors so that we may continue to enjoy our sport as well as these beautiful and iconic climbs. Thank you so much for your consideration.