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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I have been a climber for over 6 years and climbing has given me some of the most engaging and thrilling moments of my life. It is a lifestyle and an integral part of the way I interact with natural spaces. When I heard about this new policy to possibly ban fixed anchors by labeling them as installations within National Forestry areas, I was extremely upset for the following reasons:

- 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.

Please consider re-evaluating this policy and preserving the livelihood of climbing. Fixed anchors and bolts are essential to our safety.

Best,

Dylan