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Comments: - Fixed protection, especially anchors, should remain on rock inside all USFS and wilderness lands so citizens can have access to their public lands. Fixed protection makes climbing safe and gives people a way to descend safely.

- Rock climbing is an international sport and is growing. People travel from all over the world to climb in our USFS and Wilderness public lands. It would be tragic to have deaths due to a lack of anchors. Crags around the world share an ethic of providing fixed protection for all visitors. Anchors provide a safe descent for US citizens and international travelers.

- Climbers are respected internationally because it is a physically and mentally challenging sport that viewers love to watch. It is an Olympic Sport and celebrated competitive sport televised for decades. Movies are created about the athletes and their feats.

- New climbers will continue to be inspired by these activities. Fixed anchors help keep these new climbers safe. Many of the new climbers learn at indoor climbing gyms where they teach climbing with fixed protection and anchors.

- Climbing brings in significant dollars into our US economy. With food, gas, camping fees, hotels, and the Indoor rock climbing industry - an approximate \$493 billion in 2022 (CNN, McManus, 5/5/22) was contributed to the economy. And this is just a piece of the vast Outdoor industry that contributes \$1 Trillion to our economy (Marketplace.org, Maher, 11/20/23).

- Accessibility - Fixed Anchors and protection on USFS /Wilderness lands make climbing accessible to many historically underserved populations. Marginalized communities who may not have access to climbing gyms, safety equipment, and outdoor recreation opportunities have many opportunities in national parks. Non-profit education organizations offer climbing courses where they utilize fixed protection and anchors placed by the climbing community to introduce and keep new and diverse climbers safe.

- Rock climbing has significant physical and mental health benefits for US citizens. Government managed public lands are in place to benefit the citizens and protect our access to our national treasures and natural resources. Some people want to access via the horizontal while others want access to the vertical. They should have equal access because they are public lands. Where traffic signs, speed limits, and parking lots in USFS lands keep drivers on a safe path, and the flow of traffic coordinated, fixed protection and anchors keep climbers in their lane and provide a key safety feature of all climbs, an anchor to descend to the ground.

We cannot decrease safety in our USFS and Wilderness designated lands. We cannot take away safe access to our public lands.