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First name: Tracie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I'm writing as a climber, mountaineer, and search and rescue volunteer. I serve as a field deployable member of Portland Mountain Rescue and also volunteer as a climb leader with the Mazamas mountaineering club. I have climbed hundreds of routes in Mt Hood National Forest, North Cascades National Park, Deschutes National Forest, Willamette National Forest, Umpqua National Forest, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Okanogan-Wentachee National Forest, Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Fixed bolted anchors on high traffic routes ensure safety for ascending and descending, and also aid in timeliness of ascending and descending. In the event of an accident, fixed anchor hardware can also increase the ability of search and rescue crews to assess and extract subjects more quickly- potentially helping to save lives when the stakes are high and the margins are thin.

As a climber, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in both wilderness areas and national forests remain available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in designated areas.

Thank you, Tracie Weitzman