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Comments: As a climber, I am concerned about current pending USFS policy proposals regarding fixed anchors in wilderness. This policy seems like a one-size-fits-all approach that villainizes climbing as a use of wilderness. It seems like drastic shift when climbing has been an accepted use of wilderness since the wilderness act was passed.

Recreation is a pathway to conservation. What great conservationist was not first a recreationist? I know that my experiences recreating on public lands and in wilderness areas, climbing, kayaking, skiing, hiking, etc. has made me a more a proponent of protected land than anything else ever could have. If climbers are able to recreate in wilderness areas, they will be more inclined to preserve and protect the areas they recreate in.

Additionally, if anchors are removed or not allowed, climbers will leave behind webbing and rope on trees, which I think is more of an offensive to wilderness character than a few bolts. Inadequate bolting will also create more dangerous climbs. When accidents happen, SAR teams will add bolts indiscriminately. I think its better to allow bolts and anchors that are carefully and thoughtfully placed rather than have trash and poorly placed rescue bolts fill in later.

Climbing has been a historically accepted use of these lands. Bolts and fixed anchors are no different from trails or other allowed installations. They allow for safe recreation and enjoyment of our public lands. With, lets face it, pretty minimal impacts.

At the end of the day, climbers and land managers have a shared goal: to protect the places we love. this proposed policy villainizes climbers when we could get so much farther by working together.