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Comments: Hello,

I'm writing to express my support in keeping wilderness climbing access open to the public. Climbing is a major driver of outdoor recreation, and the climbing community has long supported the National Forest Service in conservation efforts.

Climbing bolts are essential safety gear that are long-lasting, nearly invisible to the naked eye, and help prevent massive falls. 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.

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.

Please keep wilderness climbing bolting access open.

Thank you,

Jenna