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Comments: Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed policies that would prohibit fixed climbing areas in US Wilderness areas. The classification of fixed climbing anchors as 'prohibited installations' in Wilderness areas is an incorrect interpretation and would have a significant negative impact on the global climbing community that loves, respects, and actively protects these wilderness areas. Here are some of the negative impacts these policies would have:

- Safety issues: bolts are a critical part of a safe climbing system. Prohibiting them will make climbing more dangerous and will make important bolt maintenance more difficult.
- Threatening the sport of climbing: Climbing is a beloved sport that has enabled much of the exploration of American and global wilderness. Prohibiting bolts will make much of climbing unsafe or impossible. It would also threaten the rich legacy of American climbing, home to some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.
- Harming a responsible user group: Climbers are intrinsically motivated to protect the areas in which we climb. It is part of the climbing ethos to take care of our natural areas, and it is the beauty of these natural areas that brings climbers to them in the first place. Climbers actively lead or participate in efforts to uphold and protect wilderness climbing areas (the Yosemite Face Lift is a great example). To inhibit the user group as a whole would be removing a helpful partner for the NPS and Forest Service.

I hope you will reconsider these policies and proceed in a way that is more supportive of the climbing community and of the collaborative relationships climbers have built with the NPS and USFS over many decades.

Thank you,  
Siri Thorbeck