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Comments: I am an avid outdoor recreationalist - I have been rock climbing, hiking, skiing, and more on public lands for almost forty years, since I was a small child. I respect our natural lands and support the Wilderness Act. However, I cannot support the USFS's proposal regarding fixed anchors.

Fixed anchors are a critical part of rock climbing and mountaineering. Without fixed anchors (and the ability to place them without prior authorization), much of modern rock climbing and mountaineering would not be possible. I understand that limitless use of fixed anchors would not be consistent with the purpose of the Wilderness Act, but limiting their use as per the proposal would effectively forbid rock climbing and mountaineering, threatening the legacy of an activity that occurred in wilderness areas even before the passage of the Wilderness Act. In fact, when the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, the use of fixed protection in rock climbing was probably even more common than it is today, when most climbing is done using removable protection that does not damage the rock.

Please reconsider the ban on fixed rock climbing anchors in USFS wilderness areas. At the very least, please continue to permit the use of fixed anchors for purposes of descent from rock climbing and mountaineering routes (this would require only the placement of two small bolts in the rock every 50-70 meters).