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First name: Bryce
Last name: Ross
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing to express my deep opposition to the radical policy change being considered that would classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" within Wilderness areas. This extreme and unprecedented policy change would undo decades of development and work that have gone into both developing these complex routes and the relationships that climbers have sought to forge with the National Forest Service itself.

There is no doubt that the removal of anchors would create fatally dangerous conditions for climbers moving forward, forcing climbers into an impossible choice of either giving up a sport that they've spent a lifetime developing, or risking their lives to pursue their passions for these alpine wilderness areas. As the Wilderness Act makes explicit mention of climbing as an act that it seeks to preserve and advance, this policy would essentially violate the very charter that it pretends to issue from.

Without anchors available, there is no possible way available to explore the full extent of these Wilderness areas, which makes this policy tantamount to a public ban of Americans to explore the very lands that are their birthright as well as threatening America's rich climbing legacy.

The notion that an inert piece of steel that can hardly be seen from move that 40 feet away (and is often hard to see even when climbing on route!) affects either the ecosystem or the beauty of the wilderness area is so absurd that it can only be construed as a straw man argument, constructed solely to execute some deep-seated desire to simply erase climbing from the US.

This policy amounts to negligence, is not outright hostility, to a longstanding legacy of climbing, and is dangerous to mountain states, such as Montana, who rely on an economy of eco-tourism and exploration of our great and beautiful Public Lands. Please consider the dangerous precedent that this policy represents and reject it moving forward.