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Comments: I'm an avid USFS lands visitor and one of my favorite activities to engage with USFS lands is to go rock climbing. Climbing is a passion that has help provide my life with community and passion. I stand with climbing groups like the Access Fund and the American Alpine Club in calling for improvements to the agencies policies regarding fixed anchors in Wilderness Areas.

Here are the areas where I think the policy could be improved:

-The determination of fixed anchors as "prohibited installations." Fixed anchors have already been a part of Wilderness areas for over half a century, changing to this designation goes against decades of precedent.

-Safety concerns. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues for climbers. It is critical for climbers to be able to maintain and update fixed anchors to ensure safe ascent and descent. Without these fixed anchors we could see more accidents in the wilderness which would draw more rescue resources to the backcountry.

-Erasure of climbing from Wilderness areas. Some of the country's best climbs are in Wilderness areas. The current proposal restricts climbers ability to explore Wilderness public lands. America has a rich history of climbing in Wilderness areas and should focus on protecting routes from being removed.

-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.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this issue.