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First name: Jacob

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed directives outlined in the USFS draft directive concerning wilderness climbing. As an avid climber who values the unique experience of climbing in wilderness areas, I am deeply concerned about the potential ramifications of these directives on both safety and the longstanding cooperation between the climbing community and public land services.

The classification of fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" poses a threat to the essence of climbing in these areas. Fixed protection on routes that have been enjoyed for decades is at risk, and the hindrance to climbers' ability to replace bolts when necessary raises serious safety concerns. Moreover, the potential shift towards seeking natural features for anchoring could accelerate resource degradation as climbers turn to vegetation features, impacting the pristine nature of wilderness areas.

While I appreciate the need for guidelines on fixed anchor placement, I find the current directives to be unreasonable and unenforceable. These proposals could create more problems than they solve, adversely impacting the safety of climbers and accelerating the degradation of wilderness resources. I urge the agencies to reconsider these directives, taking into account the valuable input from the climbing community to ensure a balanced approach that preserves both safety and the unique climbing experience in wilderness areas.

Thank you for considering my comments. I hope that, through constructive dialogue, we can work towards regulations that safeguard climbing opportunities while respecting the delicate balance of our cherished wilderness areas.

Sincerely,

Jacob Gehrett

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