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First name: John

Last name: Scragg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been climbing and mountaineering for the past 8 years. I started at the age of 55 and fell in love with the experience. Travelling in the mountains and climbing challenging rock routes gives me physical and mental stimulation that is missing from today's modern society. It is important for my mental and physical health. Any rules that would ban fixed anchors or bolts in Wilderness areas or on USFS land would create a serious safety risk and essentially make most aspects of climbing unsafe.

Fixed anchors are used to protect climbers during ascent and descent. They have been used for half a century or more and are not prohibited under the Wilderness Act.

I have relied on anchors and bolts many times, on many routes. Without the "safety net" they provide my climbs would have been extremely dangerous. With them, I can challenge myself on difficult routes knowing that my fall distance will be limited.

From my experience, the climbing community has been very respectful of the wilderness. Bolting and anchor placements are well thought out to provide protection and yet keep the climbing experience as pure as possible. Climbing is a well- established use of wilderness and I feel that my use of it as a climber is as legitimate as other wilderness users.

Thank you for carefully considering the unintended consequences of banning climbing anchors and bolts in the Wilderness and on USFS land.