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Comments: I am writing to implore the U.S. Forest Service to allow anchor replacement in wilderness areas.

Rock climbing is a sport practiced widely throughout the U.S., particularly in my home state of Utah. The fact of the matter is that these anchors already exist in most USFS Wilderness Area. By prohibiting their replacement, the USFS is endangering lives, both of those who will continue to climb there and the local and USFS search and rescue staff who will inevitably be called to aid in a rescue when aging anchors fail.

I encourage the USFS to create a rock climbing management policy that applies across the board to all USFS Wilderness lands across the country properties, one that acknowledges and works in tandem with local climbing advocacy organizations to make sure existing anchors remain in safe condition and that new climbing areas are developed sustainably.

Furthermore, rock climbing has a rich history in America, one tied to mountaineering, mountain climbing, and hiking. By creating unnecessary regulations on this sport, the USFS is stifling a legacy that's as old as the forest service itself. Thank you for your consideration.