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Comments: As a climber and outdoor enthusiast, I completely understand the USFS want and desire to protect the great wilderness areas that we all enjoy. Since its adoption, the Wilderness Act has done a great job of keeping our wilderness areas wild. Climbing has been occurring in these wild areas well before and since the Wilderness Act was enacted and is an important part of America's adventurous history. A long-standing climbing practice is to place permanent or semi-permanent anchors to help ensure climbers' safety. These permanent anchors are essential for keeping climbers safe, have been widely accepted both before and after the Wilderness Act was adopted, and are essential for the continued exploration of these wild areas. Climbers have created and followed their own unwritten practice/ethic to minimize the impact on these areas we enjoy so much. This includes limiting permanent anchors to only what is necessary to keep climbers safe to get up a given route. If the USFS tries to prohibit/govern existing, new and replacement anchors this will create unnecessary safety issues. Often while a climber is questing up a route, they may need to make a real time decision to place a permanent or semi-permanent anchor to protect their life. Those decisions are typically unforeseen and don't allow time for government approval. This proposed guidance would potentially punish climbers for doing what's necessary to ensure their safety and is completely unnecessary. This is also true for replacing permanent anchors. When an anchor is deemed unsafe its timely removal and replacement is essential to keeping everyone safe. If USFS approval is required for replacement, this again will create an unnecessary obstacle that will put climbers' safety at risk. If I know climbers, they will not stop climbing "The Nose" on El Capitan or "Exum Ridge" in the Grand Tetons to wait for approval (or perhaps even denial) of bolt replacements. They will continue to climb them but do so unsafely because of a "new interpretation" on a long-standing Act that has worked well for so many years.

Please don't take away our beloved and historic wilderness climbing areas or make them more risky or unsafe. The way the Wilderness Act has been interrupted since its adoption has worked well for so many years and there is no reason to re-interrupt something that is working.