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First name: Stephen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am an American climber that loves wild places, the Western United States, and the Forest Service (truly, I admire the organization so much).

Climbing is a gateway to exploration and adventure in my life. It brings joy to me and helps me to be motivated about conservation of the Earth, living a healthy life, and loving the mountains. I have built so much of my character and become such a better person by recreating on Forest Service lands and pushing myself in pursuit of adventure in those wild places. Climbing has played a huge role in that.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

Thanks for reading my message. I sincerely appreciate what the USFS does for America. Please make the right decision by including climbing in future management decisions and on the fundamental decision of fixed anchors in wilderness areas.