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First name: Noble

Last name: Macfarlane

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to object to the classification of rock-climbing bolts as "prohibited installations" in wilderness areas. In my extensive experience recreating in wilderness areas throughout the USA, I have never found them to disrupt my experience of the landscape. In fact, I have only noticed them when rock climbing.

Fixed anchors are an essential part of a safety system when climbing on certain terrain, namely steep cliffs accessible only to those who would use these anchors. These anchors have been effectively allowed, managed, and maintained for decades on our federal lands, both in and outside wilderness areas. Prohibiting them, or effectively prohibiting them by forcing a Minimum Requirements Analysis through an understaffed bureaucracy for each bolt, route, or area will make climbing less safe for no apparent reason.

Part of the cultural heritage of the USA is our rich climbing culture, created through years of tradition. Prohibiting anchors would needlessly stifle this vitality. Instead, we should continue to allow the responsible exploration of wilderness areas, as intended by the Congress. The protections of rock climbing from the bipartisan Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act, now included in the EXPLORE act, and mirrored in the America's Outdoor Recreation Act in the Senate, should be implemented instead.

Of particular note in the proposed Forest Service policy is the poorly-written restriction of new routes to existing opportunities outside wilderness areas. In areas where these anchors will not harm natural resources, such as on sheer cliffs, this unenforceable provision makes no sense and should be scrapped in favor of the policies being considered in Congress.