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Comments: To the USFS,

The proposed changes in policy that would prohibit fixed anchors in wilderness areas would upturn decades of precedent and tradition in climbing in the United States. Fixed anchors are a key piece of safety equipment that are absolutely necessary for the safe conduct of climbing and mountaineering in wilderness areas. For nearly a century, climbers and mountaineers have self-managed and maintained tens of thousands of fixed anchors in wilderness areas with minimal long term impact on the environment while simultaneously enabling recreation and exploration of America's wilderness in a safe and sustainable manner.

The proposed changes would completely undermine and threaten the continuation of this long standing tradition and culture of rock climbing and mountaineering unique to the United States and recognized across the world. I stand firmly against the prohibition of fixed anchors in wilderness areas and hope that these policies will not be considered for adoption and rejected wholly and completely.

Benjamin Ellyson