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Comments: I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed ban on fixed climbing anchors in wilderness areas. While I understand the importance of preserving the natural beauty and integrity of these areas, I believe that an outright ban on fixed anchors may have unintended consequences for the climbing community and outdoor enthusiasts.

Bolts play a crucial role in ensuring the safety of climbers, preventing accidents, and minimizing environmental impact. Most climbers diligently adhere to Leave No Trace principles, and in general good stewards of the areas they frequent. Fixed anchors are an essential tool for modern climbing, which is a popular and sustainable form of recreation that fosters a deep connection between individuals and the natural world. Restricting access to fixed anchors may discourage responsible climbers from enjoying and appreciating the beauty of wilderness areas.

I urge the US Forest Service to reconsider the proposed ban and instead explore collaborative solutions with the climbing community. Engaging in a dialogue with climbers, environmentalists, and other stakeholders can lead to the development of guidelines and best practices that balance the need for safety and conservation.

I believe that through open communication and collaboration, we can find a middle ground that respects the wilderness while still allowing responsible climbing practices. I appreciate the challenging task that the US Forest Service faces in managing these delicate ecosystems, and I trust that a thoughtful and inclusive approach will yield better outcomes for both the environment and the outdoor community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope that together we can find a solution that preserves the natural beauty of wilderness areas while also supporting responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation.