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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am reaching out to share my concerns about the recent draft policy that seeks to prohibit fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. As someone deeply involved in the climbing community and passionate about preserving our natural landscapes, I find this proposal to be counterproductive.

For decades, the USFS has recognized and managed fixed anchors, demonstrating an understanding of their importance in Wilderness climbing. These anchors are not arbitrary installations but are essential for climber safety. By prohibiting these anchors, the USFS would not only be disregarding its own longstanding policies but also compromising climber safety and hindering the responsible maintenance of these anchors.

I am particularly concerned about the policy's impact on the exploration and enjoyment of Wilderness areas. Climbing is a way for many individuals to connect with nature, and fixed anchors facilitate this connection in a safe and sustainable manner. The prohibition of these anchors would severely limit our ability to explore these beautiful landscapes, ultimately diminishing our wilderness experience.

Furthermore, I am worried about the impact of this policy on America's rich climbing legacy. Many iconic routes that have defined the climbing history of our nation are at risk of being erased. This would be a significant loss not only for the climbing community but for the broader public who benefit from the cultural and historical value of these climbs.

I urge the USFS to reconsider this proposal and to work collaboratively with the climbing community to develop policies that balance the preservation of Wilderness character with the safety and accessibility of climbing routes.

Thank you for considering my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Logan Jung