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Comments: I am strongly opposed to the draft USFS policy that would prohibit fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are necessary for any form of rock climbing to occur safely, and rock climbing has a long history as a permissible activity in Wilderness areas. Fixed anchors have no impact on plants or wildlife and little to no visual impact on the environment. The rock climbing community already installs fixed gear in a judicious and reasonable manner, relying on the community's expertise.

It would be impossible for the USFS to enact an authorization procedure for fixed anchors because the USFS lacks the available staff and expertise to do so. Therefore I feel that this USFS policy would remove my ability to safely rock climb within Wilderness areas.