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First name: Gabriel

Last name: Wechter

Organization:

Title:

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. Many responsible climbers diligently adhere to Leave No Trace principles, and are some of the best stewards of the natural places they frequent. 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.