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First name: Cormic

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed policy that would prohibit fixed anchors for outdoor climbing routes in Wilderness areas. This policy would have a devastating impact on the climbing community and would put the safety of climbers at risk.

For decades, existing climbing policies have allowed for the use of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. These anchors have played a crucial role in the development of America's climbing legacy, providing safe access to some of the world's most iconic climbs. Banning fixed anchors would effectively close these routes to many climbers, particularly those who are new to the sport or who have physical limitations.

Furthermore, the proposed policy would make climbing in Wilderness areas more dangerous. Fixed anchors are often essential for safety, especially on long or difficult routes. Without them, climbers would be forced to rely on natural anchors, which are often unreliable and can lead to accidents.

The Access Fund has proposed a number of sensible alternatives to a ban on fixed anchors, such as improving the guidance on anchor placement and maintenance, and allowing for the use of fixed anchors in designated climbing areas. I urge you to adopt these or similar measures instead of implementing a policy that would have such a negative impact on climbers and the environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cormic