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Comments: Stated in its mission, the U.S. Forest Service is entrusted with some of our country's most spectacular lands to "[care] for the Land and [serve] People." As a climber, one of the most critical pieces to my enjoyment and inspiration derived from our beloved wilderness areas - the Sierra Nevada, Wind River Range, etc. - is access to the rich history and sport provided by established, bolted climbing routes. It is paramount that the proposed directive be modified to better reflect the values of us, your constituents.

Arguably the most important fixture in safe climbing is the fixed anchor; moreover, these are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Honoring and maintaining the existing climbing policies (policies that have stood for over 50 years) that allow for the judicious use of fixed anchors will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. To this point, I find it unreasonable for federal agencies, like the NPS and USFS to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

The restriction of establishing new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create undue confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will only create unnecessary safety concerns by imposing undue obstacles to the regular maintenance of existing anchors - a responsibility already undertaken, and seriously so, by the climbing community at large. As others in the community have said: "fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes." By prohibiting fixed anchors, the USFS is threatening a rich tradition and history in this country, and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing feats. In this regard, climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal. This returns us to the imperative of the USFS: the bolt ban needs to be reconsidered to better serve the people.

Signed,

A Concerned Constituent