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Comments: I am writing to express my concerns about the proposal to prohibit the use of fixed climbing anchors within our parks and forests. As a scientist and rock climber, I wholeheartedly support the importance of preserving the natural environment and ensuring the safety of park visitors.

Fixed climbing anchors are a crucial element for climbers in our parks, allowing for responsible and sustainable access to climbing routes. These anchors are often placed with careful consideration for the environment, and many climbers adhere to Leave No Trace principles, ensuring minimal impact on the surrounding landscape.

I urge USFS to consider alternative solutions that address specific environmental concerns or safety issues. I strongly believe that collaborative efforts between the climbing community, environmental experts, park officials, and other stakeholders could lead finding a more nuanced approach to this matter. Please consider revising your guidance so that it better defines the types of fixed anchors and appropriate use cases of each. Provide a more appropriate process for managing fixed anchors, and provide greater autonomy to the local park and forest service to administer in accordance with the needs of the lands they steward.