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Comments: The current draft of the Authorization Process for Fixed Anchors in Wilderness is both irresponsible and unnecessary.

The proposed restriction and burdensome regulatory process of placing, and more importantly, replacing fixed anchors in wilderness areas puts lives at risk. It is extremely important that individual climbers and the climbing community are allowed the discretion to place or replace fixed anchors to ensure the safety of themselves and other climbers. It is climber's frequent use and observation of these fixed anchors that has managed their safe use for over 50 years. Forest Service administration does not have the resources or expertise to manage the condition of fixed anchors throughout wilderness areas, which could very well lead to climbers relying on unsafe anchors when attempting historic routes. The bottom line is that lives are in your hands.

The climbing community has been one of the biggest stewards of wilderness, preservation, and open space throughout the country. It can be argued that climbing exploration of these wilderness areas and the climbing achievements within them has brought increased awareness and value to the care and preservation of these areas. This same climbing community has, since the beginning of the sport, rigorously scrutinized and "managed" the use of fixed anchors throughout the world. The community has continually ensured that fixed anchors are placed in a way that respects the natural beauty and future use of the rock/mountain feature. Many routes and fixed anchors have been removed by the community when those values proved to have not been followed. This is why the regulation and management by the Forest Service is completely unnecessary.

I am a lifelong climber of 38 years having been born and raised in Truckee, CA where I still reside. I have spent my life exploring the Sierra Nevada mountains, Yosemite, and many other wilderness' throughout the country, which has created cherished memories of adventures with family and friends. I hope that you find my input valuable, as it is important for administrators and land managers to remember that public lands are OUR lands. Those of the public. OUR opinions and wishes of how to use OUR lands should always be of the foremost consideration.