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Title:

Comments: I am a major fan of the USFS and its ongoing efforts to conserve wilderness for generations to come, so thank you for your tremendously important work.

I have reviewed the proposed policy regarding fixed climbing anchors in wilderness areas and I have major concerns. I have been a climber for over 30 years and my children are also climbers--my whole family appreciates the unique wilderness experiences afforded by outdoor climbing. However, we rely on fixed anchors to keep us safe and this new policy threatens to make climbing more dangerous for the climbing community. Fixed anchors CAN be managed responsibly without a ban and without major obstacles to replacing old and dangerous gear. The climbing community is an important steward of wilderness areas and providing climbers a safe environment should be a high priority for the USFS.

I therefore request the USFS re-consider its proposed policy and work with climbing organizations to create policies that both preserve wilderness experiences for future generations while also keeping climbers safe and preserving climbing as a worthy wilderness experience that creates new generations of stewards and champions of wilderness conservation.