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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber of over 25 years all over the US, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in federal wilderness areas and other non-wilderness National Forest lands remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety systems. Interpreting them as prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act would be a reversal of decades of policy allowing their judicious use in Wilderness areas. Climbing at its heart is a process of exploration, and the rock or ice climbing medium reveals what protection from fixed anchors is prudent and appropriate. Often while climbing, critical safety decisions need to be made in the moment, not applied for and approved by land managers. The existing policies do more to protect Wilderness character than the proposed policies, while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing are not prohibited installations and can be used, replaced, and maintained in designated Wilderness areas.