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Comments: Fixed anchors in wilderness areas is a practice that is already self-regulated by the climbing community and allows for the safe participation of a popular, healthy, low-impact use of wilderness areas. Fixed anchors in the form of bolts and slings are critical to keeping the act of mountain climbing safe and low-impact. If fixed anchors are removed or limited, then that puts people who are climbing in serious harms way. Moreover, without fixed anchors, climbers will be forced to do activities that are perhaps more harmful the the wilderness area, like wrapping a rope around a tree to rappel off a cliff or scrambling down gullies with sensitive ecosystems, which causes erosion and damage to sensitive areas. Putting in two small bolts that no one else will notice to cleanly rappel down a cliff has the least impact of the above-mentioned ways of getting down a mountain.

Like many people who enjoy wilderness areas, I love climbing. It brings me unimaginable joy, confidence, self-worth and purpose. Restricting fixed anchors in wilderness areas would destroy climbing in America. The unintended consequence of this would mean over-crowding of climbing areas outside wilderness areas, leading to their overuse. Activities such as hiking, fishing, and motorized activities all have impacts in wilderness areas that far exceed climbing, even if a few fixed anchors are placed by climbers as they are needed. Self-regulation and the restriction of power drilling have worked to keep fixed anchors at a reasonable level in wilderness areas and there is no need to change current practice.

I strongly oppose this action by the USFS as it will severely limit a wholesome, historical and important activity we do in the wilderness.

Thank you