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Comments: As someone who has had the privilege of climbing all across the country, I know firsthand how much the climbing community cares and advocates for Wilderness areas. Climbers, in my experience, tend to be incredible stewards of the lands that we love. We want to preserve our beautiful wild spaces just as much as USFS does. We also advocate for equitable access to these lands. As climbing happens to be our activity of choice, maintaining safe and essential methods for climbers to recreate responsibly is imperative.

Prohibiting the use and replacement of integral climbing infrastructure, such as bolts and fixed anchors, will prove to have devastating consequences. If there is one thing that we know about climbers, it's that they will find a way to climb regardless of what consequences they may face. Over time, if bolts and fixed anchors degrade and go unchecked/unmaintained, we will see-with certainty-accidents and deaths in Wilderness climbing areas.

Climbing has a long and storied history in America. If this bolt prohibition proposal passes, not only will it alienate a large and vital demographic of environmental stewards, but it will jeopardize the legacy of American climbing and the safety of climbers for years to come. Please reconsider revising your proposals to allow for the safe and timely maintenance and replacement of bolts and anchors.