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First name: Kevin

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. As an avid rock climber on federal land in and outside of designated wilderness, I feel worried that new regulation will promote unsafe climbing practices and possibly lead to injury or even death in the event that antiquated equipment should fail. Furthermore, it is my impression that rock climbing espouses the freedom of moving in the natural world in a manner consistent with the intention of the wilderness act. Additionally, bolts and even pitons are essential pieces of climbing history (American History) and to my knowledge are not prohibited under the Wilderness Act. I understand that the method of placement is at issue. I hope that the USFS will following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors in wilderness and the forest at large. Especially given that they have allowed fixed anchors for decades.

As a member of the climbing community I participate in the regular maintenance of bolts and pitons through our local climbing organization. I am committed to assisting federal land managers with a climbing management plan that will allow continuance of all climbing including bolt protected climbing.

To borrow the words of the ACCESS Fund: Please allow us to explore wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors could threaten America's rich climbing legacy and erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. I humbly ask that climbing management policy protect existing routes. I also ask that we come up with a reasonable way of introducing new routes including those with fixed anchors which will allow us to continue to explore the amazing process and adventure of rock climbing.

Thank you again for allowing me to share my point of view, I love the wildness of the American West and I am grateful to live in a country where my voice can make a difference.

Best Wishes,

Kevin Keith
Prescott Arizona