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First name: Eli

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

My name is Eli Yale and I am writing to suggest reworking the proposed climbing management guidance. As a veteran rock climber, I frequently climb in protected wilderness areas such as Yosemite, Donner Summit, and Red Rock Canyon. For many years I have relied on fixed anchors and bolts while also being a steward for their maintenance and upkeep. Our community makes every effort to minimize the use of bolts and fixed anchors so they are invisible to the casual observer and non destructive to the rock. We also seek to educate the next generation to do the same. Fixed anchors and bolts are essential safety equipment needed to make rock climbing possible. The proposed guidelines would make Rock Climbing in our country's wilderness areas nearly impossible for many years to come. A majority of the iconic climbing routes that people travel from all over the world would become inaccessible as bolts and anchors are neglected and removed.

I urge the National Park Service to rework the guidelines to encourage education, stewardship, and sustainable maintenance of climbing bolts and anchors rather than banning their use so that people can continue to safely climb in US wilderness areas.