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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom this may concern:

I have spent practically my entire life recreating on national forest service and wilderness lands. As a life long advocate of wilderness exploration, I urge everyone at usfs to strongly reject the new proposal to effectively eliminate fixed anchors in national parks. As an blind climber, I've worked with people who are disabled for many years, and I do not want to see Americans, in record numbers, made permanently disabled by your policy to ban anchors that are used to ensure safety in climbing purposes. Limiting bolts to areas that are strictly required for safety, requiring sustainable management of non-fixed materials, and requiring people who set specific anchors to follow specific processes is important to protect the environment, however these regulations will not achieve this goal in the most effective way possible. Effectively banning protection on national forest service lands will encourage climbers to climb in dangerous ways, without properly vetted protection, and will cause a surge in the number of people who end up becoming permanently disabled by accidents that can be prevented with properly and professionally set fixed anchors in the correct locations. No decent American wants to support a policy that makes keeping our publically accessible lands safe enough for public enjoyment. Fixed anchors, if maintained properly are no more damaging to the environment than hiking trails, have decades of history in our country, and have become more eco-friendly with time. I urge you to create better regulations that balance the necessary safety of members of the American public who are enjoying our countries great public lands with the need to ensure a well respected environment. We can do better.

Sincerely,

Derek Riemer