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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For over 20 years, I've been able to explore extensive Backcountry and Wilderness areas with fervor. My experiences were first introduced with the Boy Scouts, Venture crew, and then further with friends and family members. Many, many times in the vertical adventures I've enjoyed, I've relied on fixed gear that were described in numerous guidebooks, Mountain Project, and/or various online blog posts. Without these resources, my safety and reliance could have turned to devastating risk, or worse, death.

The climbing community at large is very supportive and committed to replacing old bolts and creating new routes with proper equipment when necessary. Access Fund, who I've been a devout supporter of for years, has grants and programs designed to replace/upgrade gear when it's no longer deemed safe. American Alpine Club, Outdoor magazine, and Backcountry magazine are a few other institutions to name which also offer grants/funds to replace anchors when necessary. This is without naming many of the numerous small climbing organizations and communities who are committed to the same actions. Without the continued effort of these various organizations, us climbers would be stuck relying on very old equipment for safety. Therefore, if the Forest Service were to follow through with their proposed actions, it would directly hamper the speed and ability with which our community has maintained such safety anchors. This could cause irreparable harm to peoples who enjoy the vertical world safely.

As a climber, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in National Forest areas remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of National Forest areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in designated Wilderness areas.