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First name: Richard
Last name: Koomjian
Organization: Emergent Tree Works
Title: Owner
Comments: First, let me say that I can appreciate the spirit of the proposed rule change prohibiting fixed anchors in wilderness. I am a lifelong climber, but also a frequent user of wilderness areas for non-climbing activities. I believe that having policies in place which give land managers the ability to limit fixed protection in some environments makes good sense. However, the proposed rule change would allow or possibly require bolt bans and bolt removal in wilderness areas, which is a terrible idea and a drastic change from what has been the norm in American climbing for decades.

I don't think climbers should have free rein to bolt wherever and whenever, and I think most climbers are eager to follow thoughtful and considered rules from land managers. This proposed rule change is not that, and it seems certain to create a conflict with climbers. This is a conflict no one wants, least of all climbers, who are more than happy to submit to considered limits on their activities where their activities could negatively impact others.

Where is the harm that is commensurate with such a drastic action as USFS is contemplating?