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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber, I've spent thousands of hours in National Forests and designated wilderness areas across the US. I estimate that I've spent more time on National Forest Service land than I've spent in all but 1 house I've lived in in my 40 years on Earth. I've backpacked in more designated wildernesses than I can easily count. These places are perhaps the most important pieces of land on Earth to me, and I have and continue to advocate for their protection from development. That said, I also want to ensure that the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in National Forests, and in designated wilderness areas, remains available to the climbing community. I believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Moreover, some of the proposed regulations go well past reasonable definitions of fixed anchors, to include removable equipment like ice screws, and would permanently close summits that can only be reached (therefore only descended from) via technical ropework. 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 and National Forest areas.