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Comments: I applaud the National Forest Service for continuing to steward our public lands. The management of such a diverse array of landscapes is no easy task, and the USFS has remained a flexible, forward thinking government agency. The current proposal regarding the placement and maintenance of bolts in Wilderness areas is well written and thoughtfully constructed. I especially applaud the USFS for continuing to seek consultation with native tribes as it manages our public lands.

My concerns with the proposal as it is currently written are as follows:

- I am concerned that the application process and MRA procedure may prove to be in conflict in line with the realities of wilderness climbing, where the need to place fixed gear (bolts, slings, etc.) to retreat from a climb is a reality. How will this be administered? Will climbers who place a bolt or leave a sling attached to a block to insure a safe retreat from a route be cited by a ranger for violating the law? I would be concerned if this were the case as it has the potential to negatively affect climbers decision making that can be, literally, life and death.
- As the document states, climbing is a historic use of wilderness areas and people should continue to be able to climb in America's wilderness areas now and into the future. I am worried that the exploration of vertical wilderness may be curtailed through this management policy because climbing is a powerful activity that connects people with land and has the potential to move people towards a more ecologically aware and sensitive way of being which is critically important in our current moment -- and will be important in the future. I am concerned that this policy will be used to limit how people can interact with America's vertical wilderness areas through limiting the use of fixed anchors and other equipment, which at times are important tools in climbing.
- Climbers should be able to update and maintain anchors and other fixed equipment that currently exist in America's wilderness areas lest current fixed equipment become dangerous due to age and neglect.
- I am concerned the USFS has created a policy that will prove challenging to administer given the agency's resources, funding, and multiple management mandates.

Thank you.