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Comments: I would like the USFS to reconsider their current proposal limiting fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. As a avid user of these wilderness areas, I believe that limiting new fixed anchors (to be used as climbing protection) and creating a more difficult framework to maintain existing fixed anchors will create more dangerous Wilderness areas. These fixed anchors have been used by climbers to maintain safe recreation of our sport in Wilderness Areas for decades and any reversal of this will create confusion for land managers, search and rescue, rock climbers themselves and will ultimately damage the public view of a generally safe sport. Additionally, these type of fixed anchors are not considered prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness act and I do not believe that we should be expending critical Federal tax dollars to enforce this policy. Instead, we should be educating the public on environmental preservation, conservation and other policies that would improve and maintain the beauty of our Federal lands across the country. While I do agree with the duty to "visitor education concerning low impact climbing practices", I do not believe that the best policy for enforcing this is through a Special Use Permit. As a person who has applied for and been granted a special use permit for water quality research, I believe that the USFS does not have the necessary resources to quickly respond to and evaluate climbing fixed anchors due to the multitude of considerations that rock climbing developers make due to rock quality and safety concerns. In a similar vein, there is not a single database to determine where climbing fixed anchors are already established and thus would make the task of determining where climbing can be maintained vs expanded an extremely difficult one. I also have concerns that there is not enough funding to equitably distribute climbing as recreation across all federal lands and would ultimately cause lower income communities to not have access to this sport. Finally, I believe that the United States has been a leader in developing rock climbing as an international sport with tens of thousands of international travelers coming to our nation to experience our wilderness in the the way that they find enjoyable: rock climbing.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope that you reconsider your proposed policies