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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I started climbing the boulders in Little Cottonwood Canyon in 1983. Climbing has provided my children and me with a lifetime of great memories, character-building, and a humbling appreciation for the wilderness we share.

I support the recognition that climbing is an appropriate Wilderness activity and that fixed anchors, critical pieces of the climbing safety system, are allowable in Wilderness. I also support provisions that allow climbers to place or replace fixed anchors without authorization in an emergency. I appreciate that the policy protects existing climbing routes developed before the PARC Act was enacted. Legacy Wilderness climbs should remain available in order to preserve America's rich climbing legacy.

Please improve policies to expedite the replacement of fixed anchors to avoid unnecessary barriers to climber safety. New routes can enhance the climbing experience and should be allowed on National Forest lands, consistent with existing regulations, even where no climbing management plan has been adopted. Please provide a clear path for exploring new routes in areas that lack plans specifically addressing climbing.