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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The national forest and wilderness areas throughout the United States are home to renowned climbing areas and climbing opportunities that are unique to our country. I have spent my adult life recreating in these areas, seeking out unique and memorable climbs that challenge my physical and mental limits. Now raising my son in northern Arizona, I look forward to sharing the unique climbing experiences that the United States, and particularly the western United States has to offer. In his short four years of life, he has heard stories and seen photos of trips, which are impacting his developing interests and values. He has read our messages sent from the top of Mt Whitney, and saw photos of remote climbs in the deserts of the Southwest, and is beginning to conceptualize the possibilities for himself as he grows up. I advocate in order for my son to have future opportunities for self growth and reflection and challenge through climbing in these wild places.

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 to allow climbers to place or replace fixed anchors without authorization in the event of an emergency. I appreciate that the policy protects existing climbing routes that were developed before the PARC Act was passed into law. Legacy Wilderness climbs should remain available in order to preserve America's rich climbing legacy.

Please improve policies to expedite timely replacement of fixed anchors in order 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 new route exploration at areas that lack plans that specifically address climbing.