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Comments: I am writing in support of the proposed U.S. Forest Service climbing management guidance. As a climber in western Montana, I have seen how collaboration between climbers and land managers protects natural resources while maintaining public access.

Through my involvement with the Western Montana Climbing Coalition, I have helped with stewardship projects at Mill Creek and Lost Horse, including trail work, site restoration, stewardship days, and anchor maintenance where appropriate. These experiences have shown me that climbers are willing and able partners in caring for public lands.

I encourage the Forest Service to adopt a final policy that recognizes climbers as long-term stewardship partners, treats fixed anchors as an important part of climbing infrastructure, and gives local managers flexibility to address site-specific conditions. I also urge the agency to continue working early and often with local climbing organizations, since collaboration leads to better outcomes for both recreation and resource protection.

Thank you for considering public input and for developing this guidance.