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Comments: I've been a rock climber for over 40 years.

Please do not change wilderness regulations to require that all fixed anchors in wilderness areas be considered illegal until they are individually reviewed by your staff. This change undermines decades of strong and meaningful collaborations/trust between climbers and wilderness managers.

There are already rules about access, bolting, etc, which responsible climbers abide by. We care more about the wilderness than the average Jane, and work to protect it. We don't climb when there are nesting cliff birds like peregrines. We take care of bolts and replace them when necessary. We care about access to climbing areas and act responsibly to protect our relationship with land managers/owners. There are decades of climber-sponsored programs in place to maintain climbing areas, including safety, cleanliness, and public outreach. This mandate of a sudden "hands-off" is alarming and ill-conceived, requiring climbers to trust of federal agencies to do much of that work climbers have managed in the past... when federal agencies are notoriously under-staffed.

I get that the number of people using the outdoors is increasing and impacting the wilderness. But climbing is by no means is the biggest impact on wilderness areas! Look at the ratio of tourists to climbers in Yosemite NP and consider who is having the most adverse impact.

Consider this instead: better than a hands-off mandate, I would rather see a bolstering of the already strong collaborations between climbers and federal agencies, and development of future actions in ways that INCLUDE the climbing community rather than ostracizing us.