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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the United States Forest Service,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any proposed prohibition of new fixed anchors in climbing areas. I believe that such a prohibition would have detrimental effects on the climbing community and the overall enjoyment of public lands. I urge the USFS to reconsider pending proposals and take into account the following reasons for opposing such a restriction:

Preservation of Climbing Access: Fixed anchors play a crucial role in ensuring safe climbing practices and preserving access to climbing areas. Prohibiting fixed anchors may limit the ability of climbers to safely enjoy and explore the natural beauty of public lands, ultimately discouraging outdoor recreation.

Safety and Risk Management: Fixed anchors are essential for establishing safe climbing routes and managing the inherent risks associated with the sport. Climbers rely on these anchors to protect themselves during ascents, and a prohibition would compromise the safety of climbers, potentially leading to an increase in accidents and injuries.

Environmental Impact: Fixed anchors, when properly installed and maintained, can be designed to minimize environmental impact. Blanket prohibitions may not account for responsible bolt placement practices and the use of eco-friendly materials. Education and collaboration between the climbing community and land managers would be more effective in addressing environmental concerns.

Community Engagement: Climbing communities are passionate about preserving and protecting the environments they cherish. Instead of imposing a prohibition, I encourage the USFS to engage with local climbing organizations and enthusiasts to develop guidelines and best practices for sustainable climbing. Collaboration will foster a sense of stewardship among climbers and help strike a balance between recreation and conservation.

Economic Impact: Climbing is not only a recreational activity but also a significant driver of local economies. Many communities rely on climbing-related tourism, and a prohibition on fixed anchors may deter climbers from visiting, impacting businesses that cater to the outdoor recreation industry.

I respectfully request that the USFS does not issue a blanket prohibition on fixed anchors and instead engage in a collaborative dialogue with the climbing community. Together, we can develop solutions that balance the preservation of natural resources with the continued enjoyment and responsible use of climbing areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope that the NPS will prioritize a cooperative approach in managing climbing areas.

Sincerely,
James Yelland