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Comments: To whom it may concern -

Prohibiting the ability to add anchors in national parks will undoubtedly lead to more injuries and deaths, causing more pain for rangers and park services as they have to deal with this increase. Why is this? Realistically, climbers won't stop climbing if you take away anchors, they will just turn to more dangerous forms of climbing like free soloing and bouldering. Sure, climbers take their lives into their hands every time they go out, but does the USFS really want to enforce a rule that is going to lead to more difficulty than it is worth?

Setting anchors isn't like it used to be - there are sustainable practices in place for up-keeping existing anchors, as well as good methods for replacing older ones when their time is up. Not to mention, if this policy leads to the removal of all anchors that are already set in parks will that not lead to more damage? Crews will need to drag gear in in order to remove the anchors, pockets and holes will be exposed in rock leading to a surface that is more susceptible to erosion, and any number of other things that might occur just to remove the existing anchors.

If you remove anchors, I can see a world in which people decide to climb where ever they'd like, as opposed to limiting themselves to an area that already has anchors. And if you remove anchors, then why not hiking trails? The practice of trampling plants and cutting down trees for trails probably does much more damage to the wilderness than the relatively few climbing routes that exist (when compared to hiking trails). Not to mention that climbers are much more aware of the damage they do and actively work to limit it in comparison to the day trip hikers that are otherwise in national parks.

In the end, prohibiting anchors in wildlife areas will only lead to more harm than good. And isn't the USFS supposed to protect the wildlife and encourage citizens to want to learn about the wonders of nature, rather than actively block people from enjoying it in a safe manner?