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Comments: As the parent of an avid climber who was lucky enough to start outdoor climbing at age 57 thanks to my son's generosity of time and as a physician who sees the consequences of lack of physical activity every day, I feel strongly about the outdoors and making it accessible to all.

*Climbing is one of the fastest growing sports and motivates so many to stay active and it vital that we make it accessible and safe.

*We have a long legacy in our country of making decisions on how we alter our wilderness for safety and accessibility. Examples include building safe and accessible trails for hikers, backpackers, horse riders and multiple other users; building bridges, providing facilities in backcountry. I would argue that bolts which are often minimally visible are not different and allow another large group to access the outdoors safely.

There are multiple specific reasons to continue to maintain and protect bolted anchors as detailed below. But most importantly these bolted anchors are critical for keeping the outdoor accessible and open to all.

*Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

*It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

*Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

*Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

*Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

*Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Sincerely, Birgit Grimlund MD