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First name: Jason

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

I am the Executive Director of the American Alpine Institute, a climbing school and guide service that has been operating on public lands since 1975. In that time, we have taught and guided countless climbers in the Wilderness. In nearly every case, the use of fixed anchors was a part of the experience.

We are outdoor educators and mountain guides that believe deeply in the value of Wilderness and maintaining Wilderness character. As one of only nine providers of the Leave No Trace Master Educator program (Level II), we understand how important it is to protect natural spaces. We believe that the use of fixed anchors is compatible with Wilderness.

It is important that the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in the Wilderness remains available to the climbing community. We respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in all designated areas.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Jason D. Martin  
Executive Director  
American Alpine Institute