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First name: Cody Last name: Beck Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the last 60+ years, maintenance of fixed anchors within and without Wilderness areas has been left to climbers and local climbing organizations. I believe that we should respect these years of precedent. Generally, climbers have trusted first ascentionists to place fixed anchors properly, and generally, first ascentionists have used good discretion to place fixed anchors. Additionally, increased regulation could make particular aspects of climbing less safe. If a climber is rappelling a route, and they notice that a sling used as an anchor is unsafe, they should be able to replace the sling on the spot. Additional regulation could make climbers hesitant to replace the gear, and some could potentially use unsafe gear, causing injuries or death. Overall, discretion about fixed anchors is best left to climbers and local climbing organizations, in conjunction with land managers.