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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to allow climbing anchors in designated wilderness areas within the United States. This issue has a personal significance to me, as my neighbor James Brown, who was a highly experienced climbing guide, tragically lost his life in a fatal accident that could have been prevented if fixed anchors had been available for use. I believe that this decision is not only a matter of responsible recreation but also a matter of safety and preventing further tragedies like the one my neighbor experienced.

The incident involving my neighbor serves as a stark reminder of the importance of allowing climbing anchors in wilderness areas. In his case, the absence of fixed anchors contributed to a fatal accident that could have been prevented with proper safety measures in place. Allowing climbing anchors would significantly enhance the safety of climbers, guides, and enthusiasts who explore these areas.

Here are some key reasons for supporting the inclusion of climbing anchors in wilderness areas:

Safety: Fixed anchors provide a critical safety feature for climbers. They help reduce the risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities by ensuring secure points of attachment and minimizing the chance of equipment failure.

Prevention of Accidents: The tragic incident involving my neighbor underscores the potential consequences of not having fixed anchors in place. By allowing them, we can prevent similar accidents and protect the lives of those who enjoy climbing.

Responsible Recreation: Climbing anchors promote responsible recreation by encouraging climbers to follow established routes and minimize their impact on the wilderness. This helps preserve the natural beauty of these areas.

Economic Benefits: Climbing can be a significant economic driver for local communities, drawing tourists and enthusiasts who contribute to the local economy through increased visitation and support for outdoor businesses.

In memory of my neighbor and in the interest of preventing future accidents, I implore the Forest Service to consider the importance of climbing anchors in designated wilderness areas. This decision has the potential to save lives, enhance safety, and ensure that our wilderness areas can be enjoyed by future generations.

Thank you for taking my heartfelt plea into consideration as you make decisions that will impact the future of our public lands.

Sincerely,

Ryan Turner