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First name: Zoey

Last name: Ng

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors remains available to the climbing community. I 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 designated areas.

A huge element of outdoor rock climbing includes the use of fixed anchors. In my personal experience and understanding, route setters are careful to protect the Wilderness as their main priority, fostering an engaging and environmentally friendly compassion for the community. They do not set anchors in areas that could cause potential harm to the environment. In fact, the continued maintenance of fixed anchors protects its climbers and the environment by checking everything with safety measures.

When I began climbing outdoors, routes with fixed anchors ensured my comfort and safety. Knowing I could depend on the fixed anchors set by others in the community, I fully engaged in the activity without fear of faulty equipment. Not only did it enhance my enjoyment of the sport, but I could also appreciate the nature around me knowing I was safe.

Prohibiting the use of fixed anchors would devastate the climbing experience for beginners and professionals alike. Climbers all around the world emphasize protecting the environment and maintaining safety as a large portion of the activity. Through the responsible use of fixed anchors, we can remain active in participating in this culture.