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Comments: To whom it may concern;

Please consider the following before moving forward with your proposal to ban fixed anchors on NFS land. It is my, and many other climber's, opinion that this proposal is deeply flawed and does not consider the impact that it will have on the climbing and alpinist communities. Moving forward with the proposal will effectively eliminate rock climbing in many areas under NFS's management, including many of the most iconic rock climbs in the world. This proposal will significantly reduce the safety of our sport by eliminating the necessary safety equipment to protect routes. There are other options to protect the environment and preserve views beyond banning fixed anchors. Including commercially available bolts that finished to match the rock, rendering them effectively invisible to non-climbers. This proposal was obviously developed without input from the outdoor recreation community and by a team of people with absolutely no knowledge of rock climbing and the purpose of permanent anchors and bolts.

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.

Thank you for your consideration  
Peter Grasso