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First name: David

Last name: Hatcher

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issue of fixed climbing anchors within national forest wilderness areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

As an avid hiker, backpacker, volunteer wilderness ranger and former rock climber. I am totally opposed to fixed anchors within wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are a clear violation of the Wilderness Act, which prohibits "... permanent improvements."

The Act also states that "...there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area."

I can only imagine with much angst about the environmental impacts of allowing fixed anchors within wilderness areas. How will a climber drill the holes for an anchor? With a noisy power drill? How much off-trail access will be required to reach a climbing site? Will the already widespread problem of social trails become even worse? How much chalk will be left on a rock face? Will the climbing noise and voices be noticed by hikers, who are visiting the backcountry for peace and quiet?

What will be next if anchors are approved? E-bikes? Ultralight motorized aircraft? Drones? Once one exception is made to the 1964 Act, others will surely follow.

As I see it, if permanent anchors are required to climb a route, then go someplace else that allows them.

I respectfully urge you to continue to prohibit fixed anchors within wilderness areas. They represent an unacceptable violation of the Wilderness Act.