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Comments: I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed policy to alter climbing policies in National Park and Forest Service Wilderness Areas. While I understand that we need to maintain the integrity of Wilderness areas I fail to understand how stopping the replacement of current fixed anchors or development of new ones is at the top of the list. Such fixed anchors (bolts, pitons, etc.) are essential to the safety of climbers, and they need to be maintained regularly to prevent accidents, which is generally performed by the climbing community. Reduced maintenance will put climbers at risk and also the search and rescue teams that are then called out to help.

Wilderness areas are important for our flora and fauna, and to a lesser extent us. However, continued access to hikers and climbers, who have the lowest ecosystem impact of all recreational sports, is important to the physical and mental health of our population.

Please consider revising these policies such that established routes can be maintained and new routes be permitted after review - as in some areas such as City of Rocks, ID.

Thank you for your consideration, Lisa