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First name: Jonathan

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed guidance regarding fixed anchors in Wilderness climbing. While I understand the need for thoughtful management, I'd like to suggest a more nuanced approach that considers both safety and the preservation of Wilderness character.

Fixed anchors are integral to climbers' safety systems, and their judicious use has been in accordance with existing climbing policies for decades. Rather than outright prohibition, I propose adhering to these established policies, which strike a balance between safety and preserving the essence of Wilderness areas.

Imposing a blanket prohibition on fixed anchors may lead to safety concerns by hindering regular maintenance, a responsibility the climbing community takes seriously. Decisions related to anchor replacement often require immediate attention, and any authorization process should facilitate rather than impede these critical safety measures.

Moreover, restricting fixed anchors could impede the exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should recognize the importance of allowing climbers to navigate complex vertical terrain, making in-the-moment decisions essential for a dynamic climbing experience.

Preserving America's climbing legacy is crucial, and any management policy should safeguard existing routes from removal. Furthermore, 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 considering these suggestions, and I hope they contribute to the development of a well-rounded and effective guidance policy for fixed anchors in Wilderness climbing and Non-Wilderness lands.