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Comments: Implementing a policy like this is completely backwards and takes away the freedom that the American wilderness provides to American citizens. All outdoor activities impact these American Wilderness lands and by prohibiting installations of fixed anchors and bolts, essentially the NPS is stating that some outdoor activities, such as rock climbing, will just not be allowed anymore. By prohibiting the installation of fixed anchors and bolts, older ones that already exist will slowly wear away. Eventually, this puts climber's lives at risk because these older systems could potentially fail. If we cannot use or replace fixed bolts and anchors, then the alternative would be to just not climb at all, as traditional climbing is only possible on certain kinds of rock formations that allow for the placement of removable gear. The alternative would be for those who chose not to put their lives at more risk to just not sport climb in these areas at all. NPS is essentially stating that some outdoor activities are more worthy than others. I would like to emphasize that ALL outdoor activities have impact on American wilderness land no matter what. Humans shape the the lands we use. Full stop.

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.