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Comments: I have reviewed the document on the evaluation and authorization procedures for fixed anchors and fixed equipment in national park service wilderness areas.

I would like you to re-evaluate the proposal and permit fixed anchors in wilderness areas. Climbing is an essential form of recreation for myself, my kids as well as many of my friends.

For as long as my kids could walk I have taken them to national parks and wilderness areas to enjoy and learn to care for our precious environment. Later I have taken them climbing to Yosemite, Arches, Joshua Tree and other parks and wilderness areas.

Relying on fixed anchors helped introduce my family to the outdoors in a safe and responsible manner.

My kids have grown up to become good stewards of our precious natural resources and have learned not to litter, to tread lightly and to enjoy these areas with minimal impact.

I attribute much of this to their early experience climbing and caring for these wild places.

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.