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First name: Kim

Last name: Nguyen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposed policies by the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to prohibit fixed anchors in America's Wilderness areas pose a significant threat to the climbing community and the preservation of iconic routes. The classification of fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" undermines nearly six decades of sustainable climbing precedent. It also jeopardizes the safety of climbers by hindering exploration, endangering established routes, and impeding the replacement of old, unsafe bolts.

Amidst these challenges, the bipartisan Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act and America's Outdoor Recreation Act present a ray of hope. If passed, these legislations would direct federal agencies to develop new national climbing management guidance that ensures safe and sustainable access to Wilderness climbing.

Fixed anchors are crucial for safety and have been responsibly managed for decades. Creating blanket prohibitions is impractical. We need policies that protect climbers' safety, encourage responsible anchor maintenance, and preserve America's rich climbing legacy. Additionally, there are concerns about the unenforceability and potential confusion from restricting the establishment of new routes on non-Wilderness lands. The climbing community advocates for maintaining opportunities for new anchors unless rigorous analyses dictate otherwise.