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First name: Aikaterini

Last name: Papadopoulou

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write this letter to kindly ask that you do not implement the new policy.

As a member of the climbing community, I am very concerned about the safety of my peers, as well as the protection of the environment. Climbers and USFS have worked hand-in-hand for years to ensure both.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Federal agencies have allowed and managed fixed anchors for decades. This has allowed for safety in climbing, as well as appropriate exploration of wilderness areas.

Prohibiting new anchors will cause a critical safety issue. According to ANAC (Accidents in North American Climbing) trad accidents make up 63% of all roped accidents, with sport and top rope together making up 20 percent. Impeding sport and top rope climbing will consequently mean a much larger number of injuries and death, as more climbers turn to trad techniques as their only option.

In addition, 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.

Finally, 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.