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First name: Will

Last name: Dooris

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am concerned about the proposal for fixed anchors in wilderness areas.

First, I think the proposal creates a safety issue. The proposal imposes unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. The climbing community has a strong leave no trace ethic and always practices minimal interventions. However, 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. 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.

Further, 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.

Finally, 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.