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Comments: Your recent proposal to ban fixed anchors in Wilderness Areas is unwise, untenable and the worst kind of Public Land management.

* This issue has been addressed for many years. Through cooperative negotiation, viable and responsible solutions have been devised over the years that provide balanced and reasonable protection for Wilderness and for Climbing.

To propose arbitrarily reversing these protocols now would be contrary to all good-faith agreements that have been developed.

* Public Land philosophy and legislation does not totally exclude The Public, including Climbers, from accessing traditional Wilderness climbing areas. Climbers have some degree (already established) of Rights to climb in these places. To remove these rights now is a Civil Rights issue.

* Even this latest, most extreme proposal does not prohibit Wilderness climbing entirely -- it merely makes it drastically more dangerous and inconvenient. If Government could, in fact, wield such power, it would then be directly responsible for the added, and unnecessary risk it thereby created.....an horrific and unacceptable use of Government power in the United States of America!

* Over the last few decades there has been a decreasing amount of government funding for the management of public lands. To protect our valued Environment and these public recreational resources it has become increasingly necessary to mobilize volunteer support. The Climbing Community has responded with very impressive support for such ventures. The Climbing public funds a National and many Regional organization to ensure that environmental maintenance is done to professional standards and in accordance with Government agency programs.

This new proposal is a stunning rejection of this Sweat-And-Dollar equity and, as the Government becomes less and less able to fund the work directly, an amazing move towards actually decreasing the health of our Public Land heritage.

Instead of focusing our joint resources on protecting the Environment we will force a major user group to redirect their effort and resources towards costly litigation.

* I urge Government to reconsider their ill conceived, if well-meaning , actions here.