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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern.

I have been a rock climber across many disciplines for over 15 years. It is no hyperbole to say that climbing changed my life. I've climbed outside >800 days across four continents. In the past four years I've developed more than 200 new routes, partially in an effort to help disperse crowds from over-loved classic climbing areas and to help expose people to new ways to enjoy the outdoors.

Much of my climbing has been on BLM land, but also a tremendous amount has been in the wilderness. While much of this climbing is traditional climbing without the use of fixed anchors, fixed anchors have an indispensable role in keeping climbers safe and helping them descend. These anchors, especially in the wilderness, are often used sparingly and only when needed. Fixed anchors have ALWAYS been a staple of climbing, on every continent, since technical climbing was first conceived over 150 years ago. In the US, fixed anchors in the wilderness have been permitted for nearly 100 years.

The proposed management plans eliminating fixed anchors in the wilderness are unreasonable. It will create safety concerns - people will die and get injured. It will limit access, and it will eliminate over a century of climbing history and tradition. It is myopic and destructive, discriminately targeting a single user group.

A more reasonable plan would allow land managers to work with existing local climbing organizations to establish plans for fixed anchors in wilderness areas in conjunction with the people who know those areas the best: the land managers and climbers.

There are currently over 10 million climbers in the US who depend on fixed anchors to pursue their sport in a safe and modern fashion. Please reconsider these overly broad and destructive policies so that we can continue to use public lands in a responsible fashion.

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