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First name: Maria

Last name: Vazquez

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors stand as a crucial element in climbers' safety systems and are not in violation of the Wilderness Act. Adhering to established climbing policies, which have permitted the judicious use of fixed anchors for over half a century, is vital for safeguarding Wilderness character while accommodating primitive and unconfined climbing experiences. The imposition of new guidance policies by federal agencies, prohibiting climbing anchors nationwide, contradicts decades of managed and authorized use. Such restrictions not only pose safety risks by hindering regular anchor maintenance, a duty embraced by the climbing community, but also impede timely safety decisions. Effective management should encourage safe anchor replacement without jeopardizing climbing routes. Prohibiting fixed anchors further hinders the exploration of Wilderness areas, denying climbers the flexibility needed to navigate challenging vertical terrain. This prohibition jeopardizes America's climbing legacy and the preservation of remarkable climbing achievements, underscoring the importance of a climbing management policy that safeguards existing routes from removal.

Implementing a policy that restricts the establishment of new climbing routes solely to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands poses potential challenges in terms of enforcement and may cause confusion among both land managers and climbers.

A more practical approach to non-Wilderness climbing management would involve maintaining flexibility for the creation of new anchors unless comprehensive analyses determine that climbing activities pose a significant threat to cultural or natural resources. This ensures that responsible expansion is still possible, guided by informed decision-making processes. Such an approach allows for ongoing exploration and growth in climbing while preserving the delicate balance with environmental and cultural conservation efforts. It encourages collaboration between climbers and land managers in assessing and mitigating potential impacts, fostering a more sustainable and adaptable climbing management policy.