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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am an avid rock climber and mental health therapist with 17 years of experience. I utilize nature therapy in my practice, including rock climbing to support individuals in recovering from anxiety, depression and PTSD. I am adamantly opposed to regulations that reduce access and safety for not only the "climbing community," but everyone. People are introduced to rock climbing as an opportunity to experience and explore our public lands and wilderness areas at all ages, and these regulations impact every citizen.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of a 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.

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.

Please do not alienate a community that has continuously stood up for wilderness protections by unnecessarily making it more difficult and less safe for us, and all those who will discover rock climbing in the future, to continue to explore the beauty and challenge of our mountains with this proposed policy.

Thank you,

Em Capito, LCSW, MBA, E-RYT