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First name: Jared

Last name: Goor

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing regarding the recent draft policies prohibiting climbing anchors in wilderness areas. As an environmentalist and a supporter of national parks and the outdoors, I ask you to reconsider the designation of anchors as prohibited installations. Anchors are a critical safety element that allows appropriate exploration, and rock climbing is an established and accepted way to explore the outdoors. It also seems that the proposal for MRAs on existing anchor replacement will require funding and personnel that may not be available when needed, meaning that this process won't occur with speed or regularity and existing anchors will age and become unsafe, leading to unnecessary danger. If an unsafe anchors requires replacement, one of the many well trained access groups should be able to replace these without red tape in a timely manner and prevent accidents.

Returning to the issue of expenditures, the proposal seems to place an excessive burden on land managers. Not classifying anchors as prohibited would continue to allow them to manage climbing in wilderness effectively, which they already are able to do. Further, requiring removal of many anchors would create an undue burden on managers.

The public image of the outdoors and our elected representatives agree that climbing is part of the exploration of wilderness and that fixes anchors are a truly essential piece of that exploration. Placement and particularly maintenance of existing anchors under the recent proposals is untenable and will lead to a large number of uncompleted plans and applications. We need to incentivize safe anchors, something that has been allowed for my entire lifetime and should not be prohibited now. Even just limiting anchors to existing climbs has its own issues and honestly, unless there are specific conservation goals (culture or wildlife), it is not necessary to restrict new climbs.

Thank you in advance.