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Comments: It is with great urgency I write you to reconsider your policy to prohibit fixed anchors in wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are essential for the safety of climbers and the environment around climbing areas. Having climbed in places that both allow and prohibit fixed anchors, I have seen first hand the issues that arise when fixed anchors are prohibited from climbing areas. First, regularly serviced fixed anchors provide safe and effective ways for climbers to stay safe while climbing. Without fixed anchors, many climbs will become inaccessible or dangerous to complete. I believe that this won't stop people from climbing and will result in individual people taking matters into their own hands to come up with ways to protect climbs. This could include leaving personal gear anchors in walls which is more intrusive and unsightly than fixed anchors and can be less safe since they wouldn't always be put up with best practices in mind, the way that many fixed anchors are installed by many agencies. Another result could be people creating anchors off of trees which are commonly used as anchors when fixed anchors aren't available. Repetitive repelling on trees can cause damage to the bark and ultimately death of trees. Having fixed anchors would avoid the practice of using trees as anchors, helping to preserve the health of trees in climbing areas.

Overall, fixed anchors are essential for the safety of climbers and the environment around climbing areas.

Thank you,

Marissa