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Organization:

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Comments: My name is Breanne Palmer and I have been climbing since 2012. The climbing community is one that deeply cares about low environmental impact and environmental sustainability and wellness. The ability to climb, and to do so safely via fixed bolts and anchors, is a treasured past time and essential vehicle into getting people into the outdoors. The only reason I, and thousands of others, have been able to get outside to climb is via routes with fixed bolts and anchors.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal. Imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

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. I hope we can look at alternative solutions to your reasonings that honor tribal/native spaces and still honor the history of climbing and protect the present and future of the sport. Protecting fixed bolts is essential for climbers to continue to participate in this form of recreational activity safely.