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First name: Nicholas
Last name: Ebanks
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Hello all,

Climbers know that fixed anchors are essential to the climbing safety system and should not be prohibited installations. There are existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than half a century! This allows us to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined wilderness climbing.

It does not make sense for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting wilderness climbing anchors when it has been allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for more than half a century.

Prohibiting fixed anchors creates safety issues, which undoubtedly leads to more injuries and fatalities on federal land and creates unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of our fixed anchors. The climbing community takes responsibility of our own anchors and policies itself on appropriate wilderness usage. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor management and does not risk the removal of America's climbing routes.

This ban would obstruct appropriate exploration of wilderness areas. We need to be allowed exploration of the wilderness by land managers in a way that permits in the moment decisions regarding safety that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

By prohibiting fixed anchors federal agencies are threatening 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.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to existing climbing opportunities on non-wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers! Non-wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect certain cultural and natural resources.