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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing to share a few pieces of feedback on this document:

Fixed anchors keep climbing accessible and banning the installation of fixed anchors would create safety issues and threaten the removal of established climbing routes. This would make climbing less safe and less accessible in wilderness areas. These policies do not reflect Director's Order 41 §7.2 that "climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness", by creating barriers to climbing in wilderness areas. Additionally, land agencies do not have the proper funding or resources to complete climbing management plans. Additionally, guidelines on assessing the necessity of fixed anchors given the minimum requirement analysis are vague and seem challenging to carry out.

Requiring approval for replacement of fixed anchors would add unnecessary wait time to an action that is crucial for the safety of climbers. This would threaten the removal of routes when it is unsafe to continue climbing on a route and the approval process to replace an anchor will take significant time. I believe that a permitting system to restrict irresponsible or excessive placement of fixed anchors in wilderness areas is valid, however, a permit system to replace worn, existing anchors could create significant safety issues and lead to removal of historic climbing routes. This would impede climbers' recreational use of wilderness. The new policy goes against the 60-year precedent of climbing in wilderness, where sustainable and accessible climbing has grown the sport and allowed more people to enjoy wilderness in a uniquely beautiful way. Fixed anchors in wilderness have been authorized for decades, and changing the precedent is unreasonable.

Sincerely,

A concerned climber