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First name: Andrew

Last name: Hermiz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

Fixed anchors are essential for climber safety and are not considered "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Maintaining existing climbing policies that allow reasonable use of fixed anchors will do more to protect Wilderness.

It is not reasonable for the government to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades throughout the country.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions are made in the moment and the process should not impede those decisions. We should be incentivizing safe anchors rather than making safety more difficult.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

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.

Finally, prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy.

Thank you,

Andrew Hermiz