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Comments: I have been hiking, climbing and camping since the 1960's. They are important parts of my and my family's life. Climbing provides a healthy and exciting physical challenge in a natural environment providing an important respite from today's urban life. I fear that the proposed regulations will severely limit climbing in the future as well as endanger climbers and create an untenable situation for land management personnel faced with additional bureaucratic burdens.

Fixed anchors are an essential part of climber safety. These have been in use and accepted for more than 50 years and do not represent "prohibited installations" under the Wilderness Act. Existing climbing policies and practices allowing the use of fixed anchors will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Having Land management personnel evaluate every bolt is unfeasible due to logistics and the amount of labor involved.

It is unduly burdensome and dangerous for climbers who have identified a dangerous bolt to then submit an application, wait for approval and then return to replace the dangerous bolt. Similarly a climber on a new climb who finds they need a bolt for safety are in no position to wait for this process.

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 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.

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

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.

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 cultural and natural resources.