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First name: Wes

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: DO NOT PASS THIS PROPOSED GUIDANCE! It is both ridiculous and dangerous. How can the USFS possibly evaluate anchors on a case by case basis? All I ever hear from employees of the USFS is how overworked and understaffed they are. This is proposing adding a massive amount of work for the underfunded USFS to make decisions that only someone with extensive climbing experience is qualified to make. Otherwise you risk shutting down wilderness access that has been enjoyed by many incredible stewards of wilderness areas. Please stop this insane proposal.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

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.

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.