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First name: Seth

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I writing in regard to concerns I have with the proposed changes to prohibit fixed anchors in wilderness areas. Climbing has been an important part of my life for over 25 years and some of the most seminal outdoor experiences I have had have taken place on rock climbs in wilderness areas including Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Rainbow Mountain, Yosemite, Zion, Alpine Lakes and many others. The days spent in these fantastic and often very remote areas have given me a deep appreciation for America's public lands and the climbing history that was written upon them over the past 100 years. Judicious placement of fixed anchors have made ascending these majestic formations a more reasonable, safer endeavor for a non elite level climber like myself. Climbers have self regulated the placement and maintenance of fixed anchors for decades and the imposition of new policies that require a higher degree of oversight by regulating agencies will inevitably cost significantly more for the parks service and the forest service to enforce, lead to non-compliance with fixed anchor bans and result in more accidents and rescues in the back country. Given the long and successful history of climbers stewarding anchors on public lands, the proposed policy can only be construed to be a solution for a non existent problem. In sum, I hope to bring my son and my daughter into the mountains as they grow older and expose them to the beauty of this country's public lands and removal of fixed anchors would make these areas far less accessible for my family and I. I hope you will reconsider this proposal and allow climbers to continue to self regulate their activity as a responsible user group. Thanks for your consideration!