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First name: Matt

Last name: Christensen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to field my letter.

I am writing to express my thought of on the Wilderness fixed anchor/bolting matter.

The experience of growing up backpacking with family in the Washington Cascades peaked my interest in exploring and experiencing wild places. As an adult, I have spent the 15 years interacting with nature from high up on rock walls and I would like these opportunities to exist for the future generations. The climbing experiences of my life are some of the most beneficial, rewarding and transformative moments of my life.

Climbing in US has a rich history and in the face of more crowds and activity I feel that these compounding issues can be managed in a sustainable way that benefits both user groups and nature.

Please place no further restrictions on fixed anchors or bolts in Wilderness areas and help maintain the rich history of climbing in the US.

Sincerely,

Matt Christensen

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.