Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/16/2024 11:13:53 PM
First name: Jarrid
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Comments: Hi there,

My name is Jarrid Nakata, and I am a rock climber who would be affected by the NPS/USFS proposal to ban fixed anchor and fixed anchor replacements. Rock climbing has become a central pillar in my life, providing stability, drive, goals, discipline, and community. It is an inherently dangerous sport, that much is understood by myself. However, it isn't by everyone, especially with the explosive popularity rock climbing has taken on in the past few years. Banning future installation and replacement of fixed anchors would only serve to increase the amount of poorly and secretly stalled anchors in the future, not actually stop it. Most of the time, the safest way off the wall, mountain, canyon, etc. is using these fixed anchors. Sometimes it is the only way. I believe it would quickly increase the number of fatalities from the sport as well. The climbing community, for the most part (not all) does a good job self regulating anchor installation and keeping these anchors safe for use. Many people, few of them rich, put an enormous amount of time, effort, and money into making sure the routes they establish and climb on are safe for others.

I'm not here simply to disagree, but offer an alternative. I believe it would benefit everyone if anchors that are installed/replaced are required to be registered with the NPS/USFS (geographically dependent). This would mean the date installed, the type of hardware used, the type of rock it was installed in, and the identity of the person doing the installation.

If the appearance of the anchors themselves in the wild is an issue, I recommend requiring anchors to be painted to reduce glare and improve their longevity. It is currently already something that is being done in certain areas, and is proven an effective method.

 I heavily encourage working with the Access Fund and state climbing coalitions to further develop these policies. They know and have worked with these issues since their inception, and would no doubt have enormously helpful input/advice.