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Comments: I've been an avid climber for over 25 years, and I've climbed outdoors across the United States in New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Wyoming, Oregon, and California. Climbing is how I stay fit, how I form and maintain community, and how I connect with nature. I look forward to sharing my love of climbing with my young daughter as well.

When I began climbing at the Gunks in New York, there were no reliable fixed anchors at the top of climbs, and the fixed gear that was available was old and untrustworthy. Climbing was fun, but it always included an extra element of danger, no matter how carefully you set up your anchor or protected the route. Flash forward to today, and the land managers there have installed anchors on well traveled routes. To me, this is simply common sense. As the sport becomes more popular, more novices will venture outdoors. If we can make rock climbing 1% safer without creating unfortunate downstream impact to the environment, I think we should.

I believe responsible and judiciously installed fixed anchors are essential and should be allowed on federally managed land. I've included further points below:

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.

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.