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Comments: Hello,

As a climber of over fifty years I have climbed in many national parks and wilderness areas and am submitting comments on your proposed restrictions on the use of fixed anchors.

Climbing in the US has a ~100 year history of the use of fixed anchors. They are essential for safety, getting down from climbs and rescues. Without them injuries and fatalities would definitely increase.

As climbing was a designated activity in the Wilderness Act fixed anchors have been considered legitimate for the 50 years the act has been in effect. There is no reason to change that at this time. Fixed anchors do not affect the flora or fauna and other Wilderness users rarely if ever see them.

A permitting system for fixed anchors is unworkable as it is unknown where they will be needed until you are on a climb. Requiring permits to replace fixed anchors will lead to deterioration of the anchors and more injuries and deaths.

Rather than a general ban on fixed anchors they should be allowed and only restricted on a case by case basis where actual problems exist. This can be done under current regulations. No new rules are needed.

Please do not restrict the use of fixed anchors. This is dangerous and will threaten Americas rich climbing legacy.

Thank you,

Ken Duncan