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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a recreational rock climber and wilderness user, and I oppose the classification of fixed climbing anchors as "prohibited installations" under the wilderness act.

Rock climbing in American Wilderness has a long and storied history, and is part of the culture of this country. Climbing is an extremely low impact activity, and attracts users with a deep appreciation for the land. Fixed climbing anchors are an essential part of a climbers safety system and prohibiting them would have negative impact on appropriate use of wilderness areas.

In most cases fixed anchors go entirely un-noticed by anyone except those specifically looking for them, and therefore have no impact on the experience of wilderness users, whether they be human or non-human animals.

I believe it is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new 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. 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.

Thank you for your consideration.