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Comments: Hello, I am writing to you today to talk about the proposed changes to climbing hardware and access in wilderness areas. I really enjoy climbing as I have been climbing outside for over a couple of years now.

Climbing is very important to me and it is very important to me to ensure that the environment is properly respected and cared for so that the experiences that I've had can be passed down and that people can keep enjoying the beauty and experiences in nature for years to come.

I am aware that climbing has exploded in popularity in recent years and has caused more people to travel to seek out climbs causing more traffic to previously remote and rarely visited areas in the back country. I do believe that regulations or increase in access is required in certain circumstances .

However these current proposed regulations are not the solutions to the problems. There are several flaws with the proposed regulations. These regulations are dangerous and will put people at risk and in danger, these regulations will increase "illegal" or secret climbing and create a divide with the park rangers and the climbers.

The removal of bolts and banning of fixed anchors will cause accidents as not every climber will know that these changes will be made and try and climb only to find out that they either can't walk off or get stranded on a route. Climbers who are more aware of these rules and regulations should not have to worry about breaking the law when they have an emergency and need to leave gear to rappel of a route to escape in the event of an injury or other unforeseen emergency.

The second critique is that climbers will not listen to these regulations. People who want to climb will climb and do so regardless of what the law is. Passing these regulations will create an underground climbing scene where climbers will climb in secret with no regard for laws or regulations. The passing of these laws will create a sense of ranger fear and create divides and distrust between climbers and law enforcement.

However I do believe that there is a solution that can be reached that protects the parks and wilderness as well as protecting climbing. Parks should work closely with community leaders and local climbing organizations to help foster education for sustainable climbing practices to be used as well as following and obeying closures and restrictions as well as communicating to ensure the safe, sustainable outdoor recreation happens for generations to come.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions and would like to talk to me about this further. I hope you have a nice day.

Sincerely,

Grayson Alt