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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my opposition to this proposal regarding fixed anchors in wilderness areas. As an avid climber, a taxpayer, and a committed voter, I feel compelled to voice my concerns regarding the implications of this policy.

Rock climbing is a cherished and legitimate activity that holds a significant place in American history. The diverse landscapes of our public lands have provided a canvas for climbers to engage with nature and pursue their passion responsibly. Fixed anchors have long been an integral part of climbers' safety systems, playing a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of those who partake in this challenging yet rewarding activity.

By prohibiting fixed anchors, the proposed policy raises serious safety concerns. Climbers rely on these anchors for their safety, and any hindrance to their regular maintenance poses unnecessary risks. The proposed process for approving anchors will inevitably result in less maintenance of existing anchors, and force climbers to resort to less safe methods of climbing.

Bolted anchors themselves are extremely low impact and do not compromise the character of wilderness areas. There are methods of disguising them to be nearly invisible on the rock to any but the climbers that need to use them. There is also a strong ethic among the climbing community to use only as many bolts as are necessary to safely ascend routes.

As someone that considers themselves an environmentalist and lover of wilderness areas, I urge you to reconsider this proposal and to engage with the climbing community in a collaborative dialogue. Together, we can work towards solutions that balance conservation efforts with the continued enjoyment of public lands by climbers. I believe it is in the best interest of all stakeholders to preserve the longstanding tradition of rock climbing on our public lands while ensuring the safety of those who engage in this exhilarating and historic activity.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Cameron Hill