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Comments:

With over 10 years of climbing experience and a background in the outdoor industry, including extensive work in wilderness settings, I can attest to the flaws in the National Park Service's draft guidance on wilderness climbing. These proposed changes deviate from established policies, introducing safety risks by prohibiting fixed anchors and implementing complex bureaucratic processes. Having worked as a wilderness first responder, I've witnessed numerous injuries, and this proposal, far from enhancing safety, will only exacerbate concerns and compromise the well-being of climbers. The additional burden of climbing management plans on underfunded land agencies further adds to the impracticality of the guidance, undermining the safety, historical value, and overall experience of wilderness climbing.