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Comments: Both the "National Park Service" and the "U.S. Forest Service" have issued, proposed, policies governing, rock, climbing in the designated Wildernesses that the agencies administer. Our family, strongly, urges both agencies to uphold the "Wilderness Act" by keeping, fixed, anchors out of Wilderness!

Regrettably, the "NPS" and "USFS" have listened, too, closely to, some, climbers and lobbyists, for the trillion dollar, a year, outdoor, recreation industry, and, NOT enough to, wilderness, advocates! Both agencies have proposed, new policies that attempt to legalize the use of, fixed, anchors in Wilderness areas administered by the "NPS" and "USFS".

Your agencies', primary, duty is to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammeled, state, and the "Wilderness Act" 's ban on installations can, only, be overcome in, rare, administrative, circumstances where the installation is necessary to protect Wilderness in its, natural, untrammeled state!

Agencies have NO duty to develop Wilderness to provide "opportunities for, primitive, recreation." Wilderness, by its, very, existence, provides these opportunities-the agencies need, only, to protect the Wilderness according to the provisions of the "Wilderness Act" to safeguard the opportunity!

Climbing without, permanent, fixed anchors is, generally, compatible with, wilderness, preservation. While it may be true that fewer people will climb, certain, routes, in Wilderness, if they do not have, fixed, bolts, or, other, permanently-installed, protection, natural, limits on use is NOT a, bad, thing when it comes to wilderness protection, particularly, with the, recent, explosion of, outdoor, recreation uses in Wilderness. For those climbers seeking, developed, climbing opportunities, there are, ample, permanently, bolted climbs outside of Wilderness!

Wilderness is an, endangered, landscape! Less than 3 percent of land in the Lower 48" is protected as Wilderness, and, it is under threat, including from, rapidly, escalating, recreation, pressures!

Any, specific, proposals for, permanent, fixed, anchor, installations in Wilderness MUST be subjected to, public, notice, and, an opportunity for, public, comment pursuant to the "National Environmental Policy Act"!

Unfortunately, both, of your agencies propose policies that elevate recreation above, wilderness, protection, and, permanently, scar and, degrade Wilderness through the installation of, fixed, climbing anchors! Our family demands that you protect Wilderness from this defacement!

Rock climbing without, permanent, fixed anchors is, generally, compatible with, wilderness, preservation. Using, removable, protection like slings, and, chocks is, also, generally, compatible! But, permanent, fixed climbing, anchors, like bolts, and, pitons, permanently, pounded into, Wilderness, rock, faces, diminish an area's, wild, character! Not only are, such, installations, lasting, signs of, human, development, but, they, also, attract, and, concentrate, use-at, great, expense to native plants and animals for whom Wilderness is, often, a last, safe, refuge!

Contrary to the assertions of, some, climbers who oppose maintaining, wilderness, character, climbing in, designated, Wilderness, areas will not come to an end without, permanent, fixed anchors-but, defacing, rock, and, adjacent areas will! Climbing, in Wilderness, existed long before, modern, methods of placing, fixed, anchors became prevalent, and, increased the ability of climbers to climb, thus far, virtually, impossible, "routes." Along with the, increased, access provided by, modern, technology, use has, significantly increased-so, has

damage to the rock, and, adjacent, areas!

Not only that, but, permanent, fixed anchor use, and, maintenance, in Wilderness is-and, always, has been-prohibited by the "Wilderness Act" 's ban on installations! Nonetheless, some, climbing, organizations champion a, non-existing, extant, right to their installations in Wilderness, at the expense of Wilderness itself, by elevating, fixed, anchor climbing above, existing, prohibitions on activities far less permanent!

The "Wilderness Act" prohibits installations, and, structures, like, permanent, fixed, climbing anchors, in order to protect the areas', wild, character. Fixed climbing anchors MUST not be allowed in Wilderness!

The "Wilderness Act" 's, strict, prohibitions, including its prohibition on installations, cannot be overcome by a desire to facilitate, or, enhance a, particular, form of recreation, and, the, narrow, administrative exception for installations does NOT extend to the, general, public seeking to create developed, recreational, activities in Wilderness!