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Comments: Hello,

I'm writing in regards to the new draft policies that were put forward regarding "Prohibited Installations," that would limit, remove and potentially erase vast amounts of safe climbing throughout America's wilderness areas. I am deeply concerned that this draft policy, if implemented, would limit many American's interaction with the outdoors and create safety risks to the existing climbing community as well as new outdoor enthusiasts.

As a father of six I see the growing trend in America to disregard the outdoors and the values it teaches. Climbing has generated a new passion among many in the younger generation to get out, explore and to emulate John Muir's adventures in their own way. Climbing has become a "Point of Entry" into the outdoors for many that would never have gone into wilderness areas without it. By removing the use of fixed anchors from America's wilderness areas, safe and responsible climbing will be severely impacted. The down stream effect of this will be the less interest in outdoor climbing and subsequent diminished interests in hiking, camping, site seeing and use of America's most unique commodity.

As a youth group leader I recently took a group of 20 young men into a wilderness area to rappel and rock climb. The majority of these youth had little to no interest in outdoor recreation. After the trip they each have gone back to hike, explore, camp and climb. Climbing on safe fixed anchors acted as an eye opening experience to these boys to put down the video games and the cell phones, and get outside! Without proper anchoring I would never have been able to convince these boys (And especially their mothers) to get out and experience the outdoors.

I am hoping that you will reconsider the draft policies that have been put forward around prohibited installations and take necessary action to protect the legacy of American rock climbing that these policies threaten.