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Comments: Good afternoon,

I write out of concern with the proposed policy that would classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" in Wilderness areas.

Climbing in our national parks predates the Wilderness Act, and the Wilderness Act clearly identified climbing as a traditional and legitimate use of our wild places.

Unfortunately, the new policy under consideration would in large measure prevent climbing.

Fixed anchors, such as bolts are necessary to safely climb most routes. A policy that would prevent fixed anchors, both those that are already installed and those yet to be installed, would, ipso facto prevent climbing.

Federal agencies have a history of authorizing fixed anchors and climbing and there is no compelling reason to deviate from the status quo. While the NPS lacks the resources to enforce such a regulation, its mere existence would place those seeking to climb in a difficult position of deciding whether to comply with the regulations and risk life and limb, or simply violate the policy.

While common sense regulation of climbing may be warranted given the increasing popularity of the sport, this ham-fisted attempt to irradicate climbing from wild places by removing a critical piece of safety equipment is misplaced.

When Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgenson climbed the dawn wall, they ignited the imagination of all Americans. Their achievement was celebrated, even by the President of the United States, Barrack Obama. The policy now being considered would render their achievement impossible.