

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 12:17:05 PM

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Comments: I am writing to voice my opposition to the draft policy, on the basis that it is overly restrictive by considering fixed climbing anchors to be prohibited installations in wilderness climbing areas. Fixed anchors for rock climbing, when installed in accordance to the current ethics of the climbing community, are a far different matter than installed ladders, towers, etc. The proposed prohibition is overly broad, and will significantly damage America's rich wilderness climbing legacy. Moreover, it will prohibit important safety measures at a time where more of the public is turning to wilderness areas for responsible recreation, adventure, relaxation, and healing. The restriction on new fixed anchors and developing new climbing areas is also overly broad. Preservation of those areas can be enabled by crowd restriction measures, local policies and enforcement, and working with local climbing communities.

I have never before opposed efforts to protect the wildness of America's wilderness, but I find myself deeply concerned about the wide breadth of this proposal. I appreciate the spirit of the draft, but advocate for more specific language to differentiate damaging practices from necessary safety measures, like fixed anchors and climbing bolts, that respect the wildness of America's wilderness without depleting it.

Thank you for reconsidering this overly broad draft.

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