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First name: Jason

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom in concerns-

Regarding the draft climbing management guidance Nov 17 2023.

I spend many weeks out of my year climbing and descending slot canyons in numerous national parks and wilderness areas within the nation forests. It's an amazing angle to look from up high on a cliff face or from down deep out onto our national treasures. Nearly all of these climbs and canyons are only accessible thanks to bolted (fixed) anchors. There is a significant safety margin gained with use of these anchors and in many cases they are the only way to accomplish a pitch on a climb or a rappel in a slot canyon. There removal would deny my access along with many others to these unique places.

These anchors need to be maintained and replaced periodically- I have replaced webbing and quick links on 7 anchors in Zion national park in the past year in order to make sure the anchor was safe from failure for my party and others repeating the routes after us. Anchor safety and security is a major consideration both climbing and canyoneering and it can't be understated how dangerous this legislation would be to my self and others if passed. Anchor building and maintenance is a long standing practice in wilderness areas where they are needed to provide security and prevent fatal accidents.

Our climbing and canyoneering communities are great at self regulation- we follow leave no trace principles as a whole and I know that every anchor or fixed piece of protection that we leave in our natural environment is only done out of absolute necessity for safety. I work as a mountain guide and often show others how to build safe non intrusive anchors that have minimum impact on the surrounding environment that are effective and safe.

I ask that you reconsider draft climbing management guidance and listen to the needs of the American public. It's very important that we encourage the American public to enjoy their public lands in a safe and sustainable manner.

Thank you,  
Jason Smith