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First name: Guy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I'm writing to urge you to pause on the current proposal for fixed anchors in NPS and USFS wilderness areas and carefully reconsider the proposals going forward, including taking input from the climbing community. I lead climbs for the Mazamas in Portland, Oregon and climb with the Mazamas and privately all over the Pacific Northwest. My climbing always involves a dutiful respect for our natural environments. I mostly climb traditionally using removable gear that we take with us. However, we often rely on bolted hangers where traditional gear cannot be placed as well as anchors, such as in the form of webbing/slings that we must leave behind when we rappel our routes. For the most part, these anchors are really only visible to climbers. They do not hinder anyone's enjoyment of the wilderness, harm wildlife or interfere in any measurable way.

I am very concerned that the new proposal and approval process will either eliminate our ability to climb safely in these wilderness settings or turn us into criminals when we try to descend or retreat from our climbs. Climbing is clearly a legitimate use of the wilderness. It has a long precedent of being accepted and even appreciated. Climbers promote respect for the environment and every time we expose someone to these beautiful settings, we help create yet another person who will help support protecting them.

Please remember that we're all in this together and that the climbing community wants to work with land managers to care for these environments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Guy Wettstein