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Organization:

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Comments: As a climber for more than a decade I have had the privilege and pleasure to climb all over the United States. Many of the places I've climbed are protected by organizations such as NPS and USFS. I am thankful to live in a county that recognizes the irreplaceable natural treasures of our homeland, and seeks to protect and preserve those treasures.

Like other outdoor enthusiast climbers are drawn to these wonderful places to recreate. However, since climbers venture into the vertical we need methods to protect our lives so that one mistake doesn't mean its over. Bolts and pitons are essential to our modern methods. They provide us with the ability to safely be in places that would otherwise never be reached. Restricting fixed anchors in wilderness areas would mean that many places within our public lands can never be reached. Not only would this encroach on the rights of those who want to recreate in this way, but I believe it goes against our nations rich culture of exploration and achievement! Fixed anchors are minimally invasive, can't be seen from a distance and cause no damage to the aesthetic of the feature that are placed on.

Another concern of restricting fixed anchors will be the deteriorating state of already existing anchors. People will continue to climb in wilderness areas and use the anchors that are there. Without the ability to replace old anchors people are going to get hurt when they eventually fail.

Please consider these things when making decisions regarding climbers. Thanks you for your service to our country and our natural treasures.