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Title:

Comments: Thank you for reading this comment. I am writing to object the recent draft policies by the NPS and USFS to ban fixed anchors in America's Wilderness Areas.

Fixed anchors used and installed by climbers have been a part of this country's history for as long as we've been exploring the great wilderness of this nation. I believe it is unfair and dangerous to now ban these anchors after decades of allowing these practices. Fixed anchors are essential to climber safety. Climbers will continue to recreate in our wilderness areas, and if the installation and replacement of these is banned there will be more accidents and deaths on these lands due to unmanaged fixed anchors.

I volunteer my time in Colorado by replacing climbing anchors with the Boulder Climbing Community. We replaced over 1000 anchors in 2023 with safer hardware. During these replacements, I have seen firsthand the degradation of existing hardware and the danger they can be to climbers. It is of the utmost importance that we allow this practice to continue for the safety of climbers - a responsible land user group that is eco-minded.

Thank you again for acknowledging this comment.

Mike