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Comments: To whomever it may concern,

I am an avid climber and I enjoy the wilderness areas in the United States both as a climber and as a hiker/camper. The new directives under consideration right now, concerning "fixed anchors" has me concerned for multiple reasons.

1) In the short term, I believe that declaring all fixed anchors illegal will lead to significant deterioration of existing climbing gear, but it will not stop people from climbing. This will lead do an increase in accidents and deaths related to aging equipment.

2) In the long run, I believe that it could weaken climbers' support for the preservation of wilderness areas, lead to frivolous lawsuits, and potentially undermine the goal of preserving wilderness areas as other permanent installation with significant more impact than fixed anchors could be allowed to be installed.

3) Some language in the proposed directives could also encourage people to artificially alter rock walls to force decision makers into a position of allowing new anchors or a-posteriori legalizing existing ones.

Thus, I am strongly opposed to the new directives. Instead, I urge decision makers to consider alternative approaches, such as outlined in the Protecting America's Rock Climb Act or ways in which there is a clear focus on ensuring short- and long-term safety and maintenance and forces climbers into taking responsibility for continuing conservation efforts.

With kind regards

Dan Fries