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First name: Christine

Last name: Takaichi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hope this note finds you well. I've been hearing about the proposal to ban fixed anchors in our nation's Wilderness areas, and I wanted to share my concerns about it.

To begin, fixed anchors are like the backbone of climbers' safety systems. They've been an essential part of climbing safety for years, and they're not even against the Wilderness Act.

This proposal goes against that history and precedent in a dangerous and concerning way. Banning them will undoubtedly lead to safety issues -- and by that I mean actual loss of life -- especially when it comes to maintaining the anchors. The climbing community has shown time and time again we can self-organize to responsibly maintain these routes and we shouldn't be throwing unnecessary hurdles to do that.

Making on-the-spot decisions about safety is inherent in climbing, and new rules shouldn't be getting in the way of that. We need a system that encourages safe anchor replacements without risking the removal of climbing routes. So much human achievement has occurred on these legendary routes -- its a huge blow to the climbing community and our broader culture if they can no longer exist.

Additionally, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

I cannot think of anyone else in the wilderness community who respects and cares deeply about the preservation of our natural spaces more than climbers. Let's work together to find a solution that ensures we can enjoy our Wilderness areas safely and collaboratively.