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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing to oppose the use of fixed climbing anchors, structures and equipment in designated Wilderness, as prohibited by the Wilderness Act. I am in favor, and urge your support, of keeping Wilderness wild and undeveloped.

While I support recreational activity in general, I believe strongly that activity such as climbing that causes a permanent mark should not be allowed. The public has many other places which they can utilize for their enjoyment, but we have little Wild Land left, land which is constantly under threat of development or purchase by special interests.

Your agency's duty includes protecting Wilderness in its natural state, and only in very rare circumstances should this duty be superseded. You do not as an agency have a duty to "develop" Wilderness for the purpose of primitive recreation. Wilderness by its very nature does this already, and climbing without permanent fixed anchors is generally compatible with wilderness preservation.

I agree that outdoor recreation is important, but it is not so important that degrading Wilderness through overuse is a smart idea. We need wild lands to help purify the air and water we need, not to mention support habitat for the earth's great plants and animals. Recreation is not what I consider an "essential" when thinking about what little undeveloped land is left, and when overuse is a great concern.

Any specific proposals for permanent fixed anchor installations in Wilderness must be subjected to public notice and an opportunity for public comment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.