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Title:

Comments: I am an avid recreational climber and I greatly appreciate access to US national lands for this activity. I have spent many days enjoying the incredible climbing on public lands such as Yosemite NP, New River Gorge NP, Joshua Tree NP, and others. Fixed anchors are a critical safety component for wilderness climbing, and should NOT be prohibited in America's Wilderness Areas. Climbing anchors have been allowed and installed by federal agencies for decades in the past, and it is unreasonable for new laws to now prohibit these anchors. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues for climbers if the climbing community cannot maintain and replace existing anchors. Loss of these anchors, and their accompanying routes, will mean a loss to America's rich climbing history and generations of climbers to come. 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 climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources. Climbing provides an important and unique method for accessing and enjoying America's wilderness areas, and it is important that fixed anchors continue to be allowed in these places to enable climbers to experience America's most beautiful vertical terrain just as hikers experience the best trails America has to offer.