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First name: Lauren

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose your proposed ban on new fixed hardware on public lands. Fixed hardware significantly increases the safety of climbing areas, as long as it can be properly maintained. Countless accidents occur every year when climbers rely on old gear or slings that fail or bail on too little personal gear to limit the financial loss. This proposed policy is likely to harm outdoor recreation and simultaneously increase climbing area debris by encouraging use of old, unsafe gear, and/or leaving additional slings and other low-cost pieces for rappel. These will need to be removed regularly. Please make it easier to climb safely by allowing updating of fixed hardware and straightforward processes to add new anchors when needed.