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Comments: My name is Bill and I've been a rock/ice/alpine climber for 35 years, climbing all over the United States in National Parks, wilderness areas, and US Forest Service lands (NFS). I'm writing you today to discuss my displeasure with new proposed regulations that would prohibit fixed climbing anchors in many of the areas that I climb.

As a climber I always attempt to minimize my footprint when visiting any climbing area. But as a long-time climber I also understand that use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas, national parks, and NFS lands is sometimes necessary, appropriate, and essential for safe climbing and minimizing impact to these areas.

It is unreasonable for the National Park Service or USFS to create new guidance or change existing rules that have worked well for decades to allow fixed anchors when needed, but have also limited their use to appropriate situations.

As someone who has been climbing for 35 years, I can promise you that prohibiting fixed anchors or anchor replacement on our public lands will create unnecessary safety issues for climbers, increasing the frequency and severity of climbing accidents. This in turn will increase the tempo, complexity, danger, and financial burden for rescue services and park personnel.

A rich history of climbing in National Parks, wilderness areas, and NFS lands exists here in America. Climbing and fixed anchors footprint is minimal compared to many other user groups, and it is an appropriate use of our public lands. Fixed anchors are a tiny impact compared to installations and improvements made for other larger user groups (e.g. - permanent camping areas, tent platforms, bear boxes, hitching areas/corrals, roads/trails/other infrastructure).

Instead of trying to ban fixed anchors, the NPS should develop climbing policy that protect existing climbing resources/anchor installations, and allow the responsible development and use of new climbing areas on public lands.

Thank You