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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the proposed update to rock climbing management. I'll try and keep this short since I'm sure there has been a bunch of feedback/ letters to parse through.

Generally I applaud the conservation efforts but fear that the proposal is too restrictive and due to lack of resources would lead to a cumbersome or outright psueudo-ban on climbing installations (bolts, fixed rap anchors etc.) This could lead to destruction of historical climbing routes, degradation of bolt/ anchor replacement efforts, and additional incentives to take unsafe approaches in emergency situations to avoid legality issues. I firmly believe that this goes against the ethos of exploration that is core to the wilderness and NPS mission.

As a group the climbing community are primarily conservation driven. Movements like the clean climbing revolution (see "Whole Art of Natural Protection") are prime examples of the philosophical shift to climb in more sustainable manner. Virtually no one in the climbing community wants to see a gross over usage of permanent anchor installation. Additionally, there currently is a ban use of power tools in the Wilderness and NPS. This means that gross over usage of permanent anchors is not only unappetizing, but also logistically improbable as well.

I really hope you reconsider the proposal; I firmly believe there is a land management strategy that would satisfy both the land managers desire for conservation and the climbers desire for conservation and recreation. Unfortunately, I don't think this is it.

-BM