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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I started to enjoy the outdoors while still in diapers. My father loved exploring the many deserts in the U.S. Southwest. He took me with him on many of these trips. Eventually, I became a Boy Scout, going on to become an Eagle Scout. I spent a lot of time hiking in my local mountains. In the late 1960s my "backyard" became the San Geronio Wilderness Area. Currently, my wife and I are volunteers in that Wilderness. We patrol it, educate its users, and protect it as best we can. We are both volunteers on a sheriff's search and rescue team. We perform many missions in that Area as well. Hence, I am very thankful for the 1964 Wilderness Act. Its results have positively touched me for all of my teenage and adult life. That Act has protected wonderful, beautiful lands just one hour from Los Angeles.

At age 71, I venture frequently into lands governed by the U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. I hike, mountaineer, rock climb, and descend canyons using ropes and other climbing equipment. Many times an anchor is used to access these areas safely. I do so recreationally as well as while performing search and rescue activities. Fixed anchors including bolts and webbing are an integral part of moving through the mountains and deserts.

I believe the reinterpretation of the 1964 Wilderness Act by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service will greatly, and negatively prevent individuals from enjoying the outdoors. The Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) to analyze every fixed anchor installation is expensive and cumbersome. That requirement will effectively permanently close areas of the land to human travel. A far better approach is to have local land managers and outdoors people decide on the use of anchor installations that fit that area.