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First name: Andrew Last name: Herder Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi all,

As a climber, route developer and community activist I just want to reiterate that fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness act. It's unreasonable to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors throughout the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes. Especially when these anchors are most times the safest, the easiest to camouflage and more out of sight then other options. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing history and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Thanks for listening!