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Organization:

Title:

Comments: NPS draft policies to prohibit fixed anchors threaten the safety of climbers and the legacy of climbing in the United States. Fixed anchors across the country have been managed for decades to not only protect climbers, but to protect wilderness terrain from the impact of humans exploring and recreating in wilderness areas. An anchor is an essential part of the safety system. Without fixed anchors in place, climbers will have to rely on removable anchors set on trees and other fixtures of the terrain, creating more wear and tear on the natural environment. Fixed anchors are inherently less invasive than the alternative. Additionally, many of the anchors that would become prohibited are on classic American climbs. It is safer to maintain this equipment than prohibit it. Climbers are stewards of the land. We want to recreate with the least amount of impact. Taking away fixed anchors would harm our ability to adequately protect wilderness areas and add significant amounts of risk and danger to already established climbing areas.