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Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed policies regarding fixed-anchor climbing systems in US national parks. As someone who climbs outside a few times a year, these trips mean a great deal to my mental health, and I look forward to them all year long. Fixed gear allows me safely to climb as a less-experienced outdoor climber. With fixed gear, I can top-rope or sport climb, and without it would be forced to learn how to place my own temporary gear with trad climbing or cease these trips. This style of climbing is significantly more dangerous and expensive (in equipment and training costs), and therefore creates a barrier to entry for a large portion of the climbing community. Please consider these points when making policy decisions.