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Comments: I would like to suggest that you improve the current proposals you are considering by maintaining many of the policies that you have supported in the past and not restricting or adding additional red tape and paperwork to fixed anchors and "installations." Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system, and it will create major safety issues if you impose unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors or prohibit these installations. This will drastically reduce the safety, responsibility, and exploration of wilderness areas in national parks and wilderness areas. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors (which have been in place for more than a half-century) will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources

I am a mother of four who loves the outdoors and discovered climbing six years ago. It is something I love to do and am passionate about. However, I have a low-risk tolerance because, at the end of the day, I want to come home uninjured to my four young kids. Changing the policies on and restricting hardware and fixed anchors will make it more dangerous for me and others to climb and enjoy the exploration and passion that climbing inspires.

Please reconsider your proposals to allow for hardware and fixed anchors that can be properly maintained when needed and not make it less safe and more difficult for climbing than it already is.