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Comments:

I am commenting today on behalf of my family on the proposed new guidance around the use of fixed anchor positions. The current guidance would decrease safety and maintenance would be illegal and encourage illegal bolting. The proposed guidance's requirement of a Minimum Requirements Analysis it is incredibly likely that climbing routes utilizing fixed anchors that have, in many cases, been in use for decades would no longer be available for use.

This guidance, if accepted would discriminate again and limit access to rock climbing to those who need it the most, beginners. Fixed anchors provide a level of safety and security that beginning climbers need to learn and to feel comfortable climbing.

It is my recommendation that the following steps:

*The continued use of existing fixed anchors without further review, unless there are site-specific resource concerns.

*Allowing the maintenance of existing fixed anchors without prior approval, unless there are site-specific resource concerns; and

*The authorization and placement of new fixed anchors in the wilderness with a simple and efficient permitting process that does not require an MRA, as is current practice under NPS Director's Order 41.

I support the goal of the Great American Outdoors Act to encourage participation in the outdoors and want to help share climbing with people who would not otherwise be exposed to federal lands. These proposed rules would hamper our ability to rock climb safely and create additional barriers to experiencing the great American outdoors.

I applaud the National Park Service and USDA Forest Service for working on guidelines that foster thoughtful use and protect our valuable wild spaces. But the current guidance doesn't achieve this.

Thank you-

Andrew