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Comments: I totally disagree with the NPS and USFS draft policy that would make fixed anchors prohibited in wilderness areas. I've climbed for over 50 years and use wilderness areas extensively. Bolts and fixed gear have been used to ensure the safety of climbers for generations. These new policies would classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" in Wilderness areas which is unreasonable and puts us climbers at risk.

There is no impact to the wilderness experience to the non-climbing community using fixed anchors. Hikers, backpackers and wilderness lovers cannot see nor interact with fixed anchors, only climbers can.

Fixed anchors have been and are an essential piece of our safety system and are not prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act. Existing policies have allowed the use of fixed anchors for more than a half century. There is no rational need to prohibit fixed anchors.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create monumental safety issues. Old anchors need to be replaced for safety. The climbing community does this without the need for federal money or oversight. Fixed anchor maintenance must be maintained for the sake of safety.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten our rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing routes. It begs the question, what problem are you trying to solve?

Seems to me this is a typical Federal Bureaucracy looking to fix a non-existing problem. If you really want to enhance the wilderness experience ban commercial and private air traffic over wilderness areas. That would be an interesting policy mess.

Sincerely,

Lover of wilderness and climber