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Comments: To Whom it may Concern

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I am writing in opposition to the draft policy that would prohibit any bolts or fixed anchors in wilderness areas . It is unclear to me what problem this is trying to correct. Wilderness lands vary widely across jurisdictional and state boundaries. A one size fits all policy is clumsy and short-sighted. Where climbing already exists in wilderness, fixed anchors and bolts provide necessary safety for recreational users. They are typically not highly visible and do not damage the environment. Where they do not yet exist, appropriate local rules and guidelines can be implemented to maintain user safety and wilderness aesthetics.

At the moment there is a bipartisan bill, Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act and America's Outdoor Recreation Act, moving through congress with unanimous support. If this legislation passes, it would direct NPS, Bureau of Land Management, and USFS to write new national climbing management guidance that protects safe, sustainable access for climbing in wilderness areas.

Agencies have managed wilderness climbing for decades and fixed anchors and bolts are not prohibited by the wilderness act. To rush through a blanket prohibition at the same time as sensible legislation is in process is foolish and a waste of time. For example, how many staff hours will it take to quantify and process letters about this policy?

This will be an enforcement nightmare and will likely lead to deaths if expected anchors are removed or tampered with.

Please do NOT move forward with this unnecessary and dangerous policy.

Also, 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.

Susan Bolton

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