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First name: Seth

Last name: Greer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing to express concern with a new proposal that seeks to prohibit fixed climbing anchors in Wilderness areas. In addition to being allowed under the Wilderness Act, climbing anchors have been present in Wilderness areas for decades, in some cases almost a century. Imposing sudden regulation on such placements is an unreasonable reversal of historic practices, and threatens to erase the legacies of some of the most culturally defining feats of American alpinism and rock climbing. More importantly, fixed anchors are an essential element in a climber's safety system. Installments such as these are paramount for safe ascents, and even more vital for safe descents and rescues. As climbing on public lands becomes more popular, I urge you to consider the drastic loss of life and limb that would be implicated by regulating fixed anchors, especially in the case of newer climbers who may not have the experience and knowledge to utilize safe alternatives. Public lands present unique opportunities for outdoor recreation that may be hard to come by in other areas, and prohibiting an essential tool for one of the most popular forms of outdoor sport in our country threatens to diminish this legacy. Please consider reversing this proposal.

Thank you,

Seth Greer