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Organization:

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Comments: Hello,

I'm reaching out in regards to the drafted policies, which would classify bolts, fixed anchors and slings as "prohibited installations". Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and removing them will create major safety issues.

I've outlined some of my concerns below:

1. If bolts are prohibited, and the only option is to place trad gear; how would a climber safely get down? Wouldn't this create more of an environmental impact by rappelling off whatever flora and fauna is available to rappel from? Wouldn't it be impossible to 'leave no trace' when climbers are forced to leave behind gear to prevent injury or death?
2. Implementing an overall ban will lead to a rise in accidents, subsequently heightening the need for search and rescue teams. This, in turn, has the potential to harm ecosystems and delicate environments, such as the desert.
3. An increased demand for search and rescue team members would simply increase costs.
4. The MRA process would be unenforceable. A substantial portion of the maintenance work for bolting is carried out voluntarily by the climbing community. I don't foresee this policy receiving the necessary Federal funding it would require, which means the resources will not be available to enforce an MRA process.

If the intention of this policy is to protect designated wilderness areas, I truly believe the climbing community would come together with the NPS and USFS to create practical and workable policies to help protect the wilderness.

I'm an avid hiker, climber, and nature lover. I would be devastated to not be given the opportunity to safely climb within our beautiful national parks and forests.

In my opinion this policy would create more problems than it would solve. Let's find common ground that can propel us forward, keep us safe, and help protect the land around us.

I appreciate your time spent reading my comments.

Sincerely,

Jenna Wasiluk