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Comments: I'm writing to address concerns I have on the Fixed Anchors and Fixed Equipment policy that is being proposed. Fixed anchors are essential to climbing. Climbers must be able to inspect and update them as needed as this could be potentially fatal in some instances.

It seems unnecessary to change the the anchor policy at this time. The existing policy has been successful for decades and the bipartisan Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act and America's Outdoor Recreation Act moved through their respective committees with unanimous support in 2023.

Rock climbing is a sport that is respected around the world from the mountains to the Olympics, prohibiting fixed anchors would eventually stop the advancement of the sport as the routes would become unsafe. I have personally seen this happen in Montserrat, Spain. They put policy in place very similar to this policy and the amazing historical routes there are falling in disrepair. It has stopped most climbing in the area and hurt the local economy. Climbers in my region work hand in hand with the forest service and the NPS to address concerns and help in anyway we can. For example Carolina Climbers Coalition has helped to install several cameras in known Peregrine Falcon nest and volunteered to close parts of cliffs we own when peregrines are present. We also inspect and replace (when needed) anchors across 4 states and work with many land managers to make sure that climbing remains safe.