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Title:

Comments: I am writing to comment on the proposed regulations around fixed anchors in Wilderness. I am a long time supporter of Wilderness and the Wilderness Act. I am also a long time climber. Being able to use and rely on fixed anchors on climbs in Wilderness has allowed me to enjoy those spaces with a relative degree of safety, although they certainly don't make it easier. Climbers have used fixed anchors for decades with no degradation of the wilderness experience for others. But, they need to be maintained in order to preserve their safety. They degrade over time and become unsafe to use. There is no way for managers to know from the ground, what is still safe and what isn't. That has historically been left to the climbing community itself and the maintenance and replacement of those anchors happens in the moment, not after some lengthy permit process. If that historical process is changed, people will die and rescues will increase significantly, putting rescuers at risk and increasing costs for the agencies charged with performing rescues. The easiest course of action is to leave it as it has worked for the last 50+ years. If you feel the need to change things, then scrap these proposed regulations and bring the various constituencies together, including climber groups like the Access Fund, to develop workable solutions. Thank you for your consideration.