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Comments: Hello! As an avid rock climber and national park enthusiast, I wanted to share my thoughts, that align with the climbing coalition's position. As of last year, I accomplished my life goal of visiting all of the national parks. I have enjoyed the amazing land scapes and experiences each park has to offer. I do not believe that rock climbing detracts from the visitor experience to the parks at all. As an avid rock climber, I can say that climbing outdoors has done more to inspire me to experience the parks than any other avenue, in addition to opening my eyes to the importance of sustainability of the parks crags and being vigilant about leave no trace principles to protect the resources we have.

Here are my comments on the proposal, aligning with the climbing coalitions and access fund:

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Climbing is a huge part of my life, and I would be devastated if the ability to climb outside were taken away. It's similar to telling a trail runner they have to run on a treadmill in a gym the rest of their life.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Thank you for your consideration.