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Comments: Hello,

I have many concerns with this proposal. Fixed anchors are a key essential piece of safe climbing that the Wilderness Act doesn't prohibit. Rappelling from faulty anchors has been a major factor in many accidents and deaths. As a climber I want to be able to explore the wilderness and get home safely. Prohibiting fixed anchors will endanger lives. As someone who has been a member of Search and Rescue for the last decade, I have seen so many accidents and deaths, many of them preventable. Having safe fixed anchors saves lives. Not having them will lead to avoidable deaths.

Climbers have just as much right to appropriately and safely explore the wilderness as all other users. I believe that we can work together to manage fixed anchors and maintain them in a way that promotes safety. Climbers need to be able to fix old and unsafe bolts or webbing. Sometimes safety decisions about anchors will need to be made in the moment and shouldn't be stopped with an authorization processes that would jeopardize climbers safety. Climbing requires lots of quick decisions, sometimes with dire consequences if decisions are delayed or safety isn't prioritized.

America is a climbing destination, people come from around the world to climb here. I love being at the crag and hearing a multitude of accents and languages. We need to protect this amazing history of American climbing and show the world how to climb safely and respectfully.

Additionally, it seems next to impossible to to restrict adding new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-wilderness lands. This will be very confusing for climbers and managers. Climbers should be able to put in anchors when appropriate.

Thank you for letting me do the sport I love and continue to be able to explore the country I live in while still being able to return safely to my family at the end of the day.

Alexis