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First name: Katie

Last name: Williams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The current National directives require a MRA for all fixed anchors in wilderness, including the replacement of existing anchors and routes. These directives and specifically designating fixed anchors as installations which require an MRA will jeopardize the safety of climbers across the country and place undue burden on land managers. Not only that but these directives will effectively eliminate ground up first ascent adventure climbing, this is discrimination and goes against the wilderness act and the long history of climbing in wilderness.

Safety, safety, safety with these directives land managers are taking critical safety decisions away from climbers. At the very least current routes should be able to be maintained and ground up adventure climbing should be allowed to continue with the use of occasional necessary fixed anchors that are crucial to the safety of climbers. By requiring a MRA routes will become unsafe while waiting to go through red tape and someone will get hurt or die. That will be on you. Not to mention land managers may or may not have the training and incite to determine the necessary safety of fixed anchor placement.

Land managers are already stretched thin. Adding this undue restriction will be overwhelming to the already burdened system. Ultimately climbing will pay the price for land managers not being able to properly implement this mandate.

Fixed anchors can help preserve wilderness characteristics. In the absence of allowing fixed anchors climbers will sling trees leaving colorful webbing to diminish the view, damage trees and deteriorate in the sun, which comes back to a safety issue. The use of fixed anchors can help reduce this impact. Fixed anchors are in fact less visible and safer.

I strongly urge you to take a hard look at these directives and make the appropriate changes to them to maintain climbing and the safety of climbers.