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First name: Kristopher

Last name: White

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing today as in opposition to new draft policies that would prohibit fixed anchors for climbing in wilderness areas.

As I'm sure many are saying, removing fixed anchors will have disastrous consequences in terms of safety in wilderness areas. They are not prohibited under the Wilderness act, and it's ridiculous that decades of precedent might be erased in such an undemocratic way. Indeed, anchors are a part of a rich and culturally significant history of climbing and exploration in the American wilderness, and eliminating them shows a deep disregard for the collective experience of many thousands of conservation-minded Americans. While I certainly support careful management and even restrictions where necessary on a case-by-case basis, a blanket ban seems capricious, punitive, and unnecessary. Further restricting development on non-Wilderness lands is similarly spiteful, as it is not only unenforceable but contributes to an "us vs them" mentality between land managers and climbers that will only lead to confusion and conflict. There must be a better way!

More generally, I am quite frankly shocked that there is not a compromise solution that will allow us to all enjoy our wilderness areas together. I sincerely hope that we can find a way forward that celebrates and protects our wild spaces while allowing us to all continue to explore and engage with them in the spirit of conservation. As someone who has enjoyed and aided in the conservation of our wilderness areas for nearly 40 years, I can only hope my son will enjoy the same privileges.