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First name: Cody

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I, Cody Hatch, am against the proposed fixed anchors and fixed hardware proposal.

The climbing hardware that exists in the wildernesses of the U.S. are essential for the safety and enjoyment of all who call themselves climbers or mountaineers, regardless of their identity. I do not believe that the answer is to outlaw all hardware that exists and evaluate which ones are necessary. The very act of paring down the availability of safety hardware also further alienates people who may not have the means to recreate safely without those safety systems.

I believe that this is a waste of government resources because local climbing organizations (LCO's) have bore the responsibility of keeping our climbing areas safe for decades. I would welcome more government assistance for the various LCOs around the country, but to remove them from the discussion and evaluation of our climbing hardware is dangerous. It is also a waste of resources because this would put further strain on the budget of the United States Forest Service, which is already underfunded. Ultimately, a proposal like this is unenforceable given the wide tracts of land that the USFS oversees.

Please leave the climbing hardware and instead invite LCO's into the discussion and regulation of climbing hardware in the wilderness.

Sincerely,

Cody Hatch