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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear USFS Representative,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed policies by the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) that would impact some of the most iconic climbs in the Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains, and more established climbing areas around the state of Montana. Furthermore, this policy change would have far-reaching consequences for nationally renowned climbing locations such as the Wind River Range and Yosemite National Park.

The proposed classification of fixed anchors, including bolts, pitons, and slings, as "prohibited installations" in Wilderness areas is alarming and could have severe repercussions. This decision threatens to overturn nearly 60 years of precedent, hindering opportunities for Wilderness exploration, jeopardizing the existence of longstanding established routes, and obstructing climbers' ability to replace old, unsafe bolts—a critical aspect of ensuring safety.

One of the most concerning aspects is the potential extension of this policy to all USFS managed lands, including non-Wilderness areas. This would not only impact the enjoyment of climbers but also compromise their safety, as the ability to maintain and update equipment is essential for preventing accidents.

I urge you to reconsider these proposed policies and work towards a solution that balances conservation goals with the preservation of our cherished climbing routes. It is crucial to engage with the climbing community and find collaborative approaches that address safety concerns while respecting the longstanding traditions and values associated with climbing in these areas.

America's climbing heritage is at stake, and we must act collectively to ensure the preservation of these iconic routes for current and future generations. I appreciate your attention to this matter and implore you to take the necessary steps to protect our climbing landscapes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Brintnall