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Organization:

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Comments: I have been climbing and teaching climbing for over two decades. As a part of that I have taken part in many trail days and clean-up projects, and sought to understand regulations and work with land management agencies to teach others to steward, respect and share public lands. It is my informed perspective that the prohibition of fixed anchors in wilderness areas will create MORE safety issues, enforcement issues, and confusion among land managers and climbers. Fixed anchors are essential in ensuring the safety of climbers. Existing climbing policies that have allowed the use of fixed anchors (only where needed) for the last 50 years will better protect the character of the wilderness and the safety of climbers. It is unreasonable to prohibit wilderness anchors when they have been allowed, managed, and authorized for decades. Restricting new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" directly opposes the exploration of the wilderness (which has been allowed for so long), threatens the legacy of climbing in our nation, and creates more need for management and enforcement and more reason for future tension between land managers and users. Please oppose this proposed change! Thank you!