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Comments: Regarding documents on fixed anchors/equipment for recreational climbing, and decisions being made, I respectfully request careful and discerning consideration be given to reasons in addition to climbing which have used and need to continue to use fixed equipment: 1) search and rescue operations for participants of all sports; 2) game warden use in order to effectively uphold law; 3) negative impact to the travel and tourism industries; 4) negative impact to professional guides, their businesses and livelihood; 5) negative impact to stewards of the outdoors and disrespect to those who carved the way before all of us in order to preserve our national parks, not the least of which are Teddy Roosevelt and FDR; 6) fixed anchors/equipment have never cost the government a penny.

Personally, professional guides I have hired have been dependent on these fixed systems and maintain them to the highest standards of safety.

Thank you for considering these points as well as those compiled below.

1. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.
2. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.
3. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.
4. Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.
5. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities"; on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain

opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Respectfully,

Cathy, Outdoor Enthusiast who loves our national parks and forests!