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First name: Brian

Last name: Layer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been a climber for more than 25 years, and the vast majority of my time in park service land over the course of my life has been for climbing. Without fixed anchors, this would mostly not have been possible, and my exposure to the outdoors and my relationship with nature would have been very different.

I think the cost-benefit analysis to fixed anchors is clear - they are not "installations", they are a couple pieces of metal which are far lower impact than any trail construction. Even to experienced climbers, a large part of the challenge can be finding them even when they know what they are looking for. They foster a connection with nature by the people who use them, who will then be more likely to support government protection of our natural resources.

Also, a great summary by the access fund, which I fully agree with:

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.

It's 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.

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.

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.

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.