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Comments: As a climber, I value the unique experience that climbing in the American wilderness embodies, including unparalleled beauty and the communal feeling of being a part of the vast and awesome natural landscape. I imagine that others who experience the wilderness in their own way, whether via hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, etc., feel the same way, too. And I can understand that in order to preserve the wilderness both for ourselves and for the future generations, it is necessary to limit alterations to these landscapes and keep them truly "wild."

As a person who has grown to appreciate the wilderness experience as part of climbing, however, I believe that classifying fixed anchors that we climbers use as "prohibited installations" goes a step too far. Under the new guidelines, climbers would essentially be prohibited from experiencing the wilderness as part of climbing.

I have personally climbed in many of the areas that would be affected if the new guidelines were implemented, including Yosemite, Joshua Tree, Wind River Range, the Sierras, and Rocky Mountain NP. The experiences that I have had in these areas hold a singular place in my heart, and it would devastate me if it came to pass that these same experiences were barred both for me and for the future generations.

As has been done for many decades in the past, I believe that climbers and stewards of these areas, in conjunction, can continue to maintain the wilderness characteristic of these areas while enabling fixed anchors to be maintained and placed responsibly so that we can continue to access and explore them safely. What I and other climbers love about climbing in these areas is the very quality of "wilderness" that we all hope to preserve and as a result would be the first to advocate for keeping these landscapes as unchanged as possible. I think we can do so without prohibiting the fixed anchors completely.

Please reconsider classifying fixed anchors as prohibited installations. While we should not place these with wild abandon, I hope that a reasonable way will be found that would enable responsible and thoughtful placement of these for climbers to access these wild areas.

Furthermore, limiting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. The climbing management policy on these lands should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Thank you.