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First name: Jeff

Last name: Brown

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I agree that it is high time for the USFS to establish policy and procedures to manage climbers' activities across public lands. However, I believe existing anchors which predate an areas Wilderness Designation should be exempt in the sense that they should be acknowledged and allowed to remain and to be replaced in-kind when needed.

Climbers have long supported adding to the Nation's Wilderness and without pause have collectively and strongly advocated to our representatives to create new Wilderness Bills whenever possible. Unfortunately, the current USFS proposals, which will essentially make anchors that existed prior to wilderness designations unlawful and subject to removal, will only serve to taint climbers future support for such bills. Many climbers I've spoken with feel that they are being abandoned by the Democratic Party and environmentalists they've long supported. Indeed, they now want to cast their future votes for Republicans due to this unprecedented assault on their ability to enjoy bolted climbs which predated climbing locations' wilderness designation. Please don't let this happen! Please rework the proposals to exempt existing anchors in wilderness from the stricter requirements for new installations.

Climbers now number in the millions. Please don't turn them into anti-democratic activists who will further the Right's numbers. Show them that your policies are balanced--show them that existing anchors in Wilderness, like existing anchors on Forest Service managed lands, will not become unlawful installations after the proposals final decision(s) are made.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and existing anchors should not be considered prohibited "installations."

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting existing Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. These proposals should address future installations and accept existing anchors.

Prohibiting existing fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. 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 existing fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy should protect existing routes from removal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please keep me posted on all actions related to these proposals.

Vr- Jeff Brown (619) 508-4665