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Comments:

The restrictions to fixed climbing anchors proposed in this new guidance are unreasonable, unnecessary, and dangerous. Climbing is an important and legitimate use of wilderness areas, and fixed anchors-and the ability to maintain/replace them in a timely fashion-are critical to climbing safety. The climbing community has been judiciously maintaining these anchors for decades, while respecting the unique ethos and culture of each different climbing area by only placing fixed hardware when absolutely necessary for safety, and only if it fits the ethos and history of that particular region. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to try to manage or prohibit this, when the climbing community has already been handling this responsibly and efficiently for decades. The proposed restrictions threaten the rich climbing legacy of the US by possibly erasing iconic routes and climbing areas, and will add unnecessary and dangerous delays to maintaining existing anchors.