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Organization:

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Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed directive and urge that it not be adopted.

I am an attorney and have been a climber for over 50 years. I have used fixed anchors in wilderness areas to ensure my own safety on countless occasions over that fifty years. It is terrible policy and harmful to the safety of climbers for the agencies to abruptly change their position to now assert that fixed anchors are installations under the Wilderness Act.

Fixed anchors are an essential part of climbing safety and have been known about and managed by Forest Service and NPS land managers for decades. For example, Yosemite National Park has managed climbing and fixed anchors over the last 70 years. Have the Yosemite NPS administration been in blatant violation of the Wilderness Act since its inception in 1965? No, they have rightfully interpreted the Act to allow climbing safely, using fixed anchors, at one of the world's best climbing areas.

This is a radical reinterpretation of the Wilderness Act that is not justified by any need because climbers and any impacts on resources can be , and are routinely, managed by National Forest land managers in less draconian ways.

I urge that the proposed directive be rejected and I intend to contact my congressional representatives to urge them to oppose it as well.

Rick Accomazzo

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