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Comments: Hello, I am writing you today to voice my opposition to the proposed prohibition of fixed anchors (bolts, pitons, anchors, etc.)

Firstly, fixed anchors and bolts are used worldwide by climbers to decrease the risk of injury/death. This is particularly important regarding novice outdoor climbers. Very few climbers begin their outdoor rock climbing journey through traditional, or "trad" methods. This method involves placing your own protection, typically by putting camming devices and nuts/hexes in cracks and pockets within the rock face. As you can imagine, the more experience you have with climbing at height on rock outside, the safer traditional climbing becomes. Sport climbing (climbing while utilizing preplaced protection) can help provide this experience to novice climbers, so that they may branch out into other forms of climbing feeling more confident and prepared. This difference in safety and degree of difficulty is why most climbers begin their journey in enjoying the sport outdoors with sport climbing, rather than traditional climbing. The proposed policies would force climbers to begin with traditional climbing, and would no doubt increase the number of injuries/deaths within climbing drastically.

Second, these bolts and anchors are regularly maintained by the climbing community, at no cost to wilderness agencies. Interrupting this continuous process of changing out old bolts and other similar protection would lead to a significant decrease in safety for those who enjoy rock climbing outdoors.

Third, I believe these new policies overreach the power given to federal agencies. Wilderness climbing anchors have existed in wilderness areas for decades, with little to no actual damage done to those areas. The construction of ten feet of a trail displaces more rock than decades of bolting a rock face would. Bolts and fixed anchors are also very, very hard to spot, even when climbing a rock face, and nearly impossible when on ground level at the foot of a cliff. This is part of why I believe bolts and fixed anchors have little to no negative impact on other groups enjoying the outdoors. Federal wilderness agencies were formed to protect wilderness areas and ensure the public's safe and responsible exploration of the outdoors.

Fourth, the removal of bolts and fixed anchors, as well as continued patrol over these areas, would be a costly and exhausting endeavor. These resources could be better used in so many other ways, two prime examples being; maintaining popular trails and scenic wilderness areas, and educating younger generations on the importance of nature and its protection.

To conclude, I genuinely hope you reconsider these proposals and their effect on a community that cherishes the outdoors and wishes to preserve it for future generations.