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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

As someone who was headed down the wrong path in life and has been "saved" by rock climbing, I write to you regarding the proposal to manage the climbing in wilderness areas via the evaluation and authorization procedure for fixed anchors and fixed equipment in NPS wilderness areas.

Fixed anchors are essential for climber safety and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. It is unreasonable to create new guidance regarding this after decades of authorization and allowance. Prohibiting these anchors creates safety hazards by removing the ability for the climbing community to make in the moment decisions regarding the maintenance of these systems. Prohibiting these anchors altogether will obstruct the exploration of these wilderness areas and will threaten America's rich climbing legacy.

The ability for climbers to navigate these terrains, build a relationship with these places in a respectful and intimate way, creates a community of person's who wish to protect and preserve these places. These areas are so precious to us and to lose the ability to explore them and engage with them safely, as we have always been able to, would be to lose something very special. Something that may have served future generations in finding themselves in nature.

Please, reconsider this proposal to continue allowing people to explore these beautiful spaces so we may continue to grow with these places.

Thank you,
Maureen Tray