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First name: Zachary

Last name: Cox

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the recent proposal to prohibit the installation of fixed anchors and the establishment of new routes on non-wilderness lands in certain areas within our national forests.

As an enthusiastic climber and someone who values the great outdoors, I appreciate the commitment of the United States Forest Service to maintaining the ecological integrity of our national forests. I share the belief that responsible outdoor recreation is essential. I understand the delicate balance that must be struck between preserving the environment and providing access to recreational activities.

The proposed prohibition on fixed anchors, however, has raised substantial concerns within the climbing community. Fixed anchors play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of climbers. Climbing is a widely enjoyed activity that fosters a deep connection with nature, and climbers are often passionate advocates for environmental conservation.

Fixed anchors are crucial tools that allow climbers to enjoy the natural beauty of our national forests while minimizing their impact. When properly installed and maintained, fixed anchors provide a secure and sustainable solution that helps protect delicate ecosystems and geological formations. Without fixed anchors, climbers may resort to less secure methods, potentially causing harm to the climber and the environment by placing removable protection in fragile rock formations.

Moreover, the climbing community has a history of collaboration with land management agencies, including the United States Forest Service, in promoting responsible climbing practices. Climbers actively participate in conservation efforts, trail maintenance, and education programs that contribute positively to the preservation of these natural areas.

I urge the United States Forest Service to reconsider the complete prohibition of fixed anchors and instead collaborate with the climbing community to establish guidelines and regulations that strike a balance between environmental conservation and recreational access. Engaging in open dialogue with climbers, route developers, and advocacy groups can lead to informed decisions that address both environmental concerns and the recreational needs of the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I believe that by working together, we can find a solution that preserves the delicate balance between environmental stewardship and the enjoyment of our national forests by the climbing community.

Sincerely,

Zachary Donald Cox