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Comments: To whom it may concern,

As an avid rock climber who frequently enjoys climbing on public lands including wilderness areas, I want to emphasize the critical importance of allowing fixed gear in climbing.

Fixed gear, such as anchors and bolts, plays a pivotal role in ensuring climbers' safety. Emergency situations, including rapid descents or unforeseen challenges, may necessitate the use of fixed gear for life-saving measures, such as emergency rappels. Permitting the use of fixed gear cuts down on larger rescue situations.

Climbers often become valuable advocates for environmental protection and land preservation. Climbers are typically committed to minimizing their environmental impact during activities. By allowing fixed gear, climbers can adhere to established routes and structures, reducing the overall ecological footprint.

By focusing instead on educating climbers about respecting wilderness areas, promoting LNT principles, and supporting trail maintenance days, we can cultivate a culture of responsible recreation. This approach not only addresses potential environmental concerns but also empowers climbers to be active stewards of the land they cherish.

Best regards,

Sierra Cranford