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Title:

Comments: As a climber, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in [Wilderness/national forests] remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in designated [Wilderness/national forest] areas. Similarly, the implications of temporary anchors (or rather the outlawing of permanent anchors or equipment) would inherently limit the climbing and recreational outdoor experience and appreciation for many. Without access to permanent equipment, the population of climbers will ultimately suffer a significant population drop and loss. Many climbers will either have to resort to indoor, recreational climbing, or result in a change of climbing "discipline" from rope to bouldering and short spanned walls. This is due to the limited accessibility of climbing with temporary equipment, commonly known as a traditional gear, or Trad Climbing. To partake in Trad climbing, certain temporary equipment is required from cams to nuts, and is incredibly expensive, which is therefore limited and excluded from many, due to financial costs and burdens. This is not to say that climbing is not inherently expensive, but building a "Trad rack" or compilation of the required temporary gear, is a long term financial equipment that many do not have the time to commit to. The range of the required Trad gear is ever changing, anywhere from 500-1000\$. A cost many are unwilling to, or cannot succeed themselves too. Due to this financial and timely burden, many climbers who, under this new policy, would no longer be allowed to set up or ascend permanent anchored routes, are forced with a decision to either change climbing disciplines from long, rope lead routes, to short spanned bouldering, or to leave outdoor environments and continue climbing within indoor facilities. This causes a drastic shift, regardless of choice, will ultimately negatively affect parks and nathral environments due to a shortage of a population willing to dedicate resources and time to natural preservation and appreciation. Instituting this act will ultimately change climbing forever for many, and provide long term consequences for both the climbing and preservationists communities.