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Comments: I am an active hiker and climber for the past 50 plus years. I started hiking in the wildernesses in Montana as a boy scout and now I climb in the north cascades with the Seattle Mountaineers. I also climb in Red Rocks, Joshua Tree, Yosemite and many other places. I support rules that permit the use of climbing anchors in wilderness and national parks, BLM and other federal lands. However there must be reasonable compromise between the stakeholders to reach good solutions. As I hiker I know that bridges and other protections are necessary to prevent injury or death when trails cross rivers and streams. Those installations require planning and compromise to wildernesses. But they are necessary. Likewise climbing anchors are necessary to protect climbers from injury or death. For example I climbed prusek pear in the Enchantments 20 years ago. When we reached the summit an electrical storm suddenly happened that required us to quickly repel down. Without anchors I might have been hit by lightning or died trying to quickly descend. I fear a rule that prohibit reasonable climbing anchors would endanger many climbers. Reasonable protections are necessary all users of public lands, wildernesses and national parks. I urge you to adopt rules that permit some use of anchors in these areas. Those protections should include trails, bridges and climbing anchors.

If those who oppose anchors are trying to limit the people who use wilderness then I recommend registration methods and not increasing risk to limit people going in. Additionally having seen anchors in the wilderness and other federal land I know them to be not very intrusive or visible so as to interfere with the esthetics of the areas. However I agree that proper management of installations should be considered by the rules.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Garth Jacobson