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Organization:

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Comments: I am a frequent user of public lands for personal recreation and a full-time mountain guide and guide service owner. I and rely on public lands to make my living and provide work for my staff.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system 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.

The proposed prohibition on the maintenance of fixed anchors is especially concerning. Guides and recreationalists need to be able to maintain fixed anchors in the moment to ensure the safety of themselves, climbing partners and clients (for example, replacing damaged slings). It is not practical to require pre-approval to maintain a fixed anchor, especially when the condition of a fixed anchor is often unknown until inspection in the field.

Thank you for your consideration.