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First name: Christoph
Last name: Carter
Organization:
Title:
Comments: This is an incredibly misguided effort for numerous reasons. Firstly, this policy will add further strain to our under-resourced Park Service staff, who could not possibly be expected inspect and approve climbing anchors in addition to their other responsibilities. This will result in a near-complete ban on climbing in national parks, in direct contraindication of Director's Order 41 §7.2 which affirms that "climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness". The establishment of a bureaucratic approval process that is completely infeasible provides no remedy to this inconsistency between policy and philosophy. Additionally, this policy will make the climbing that does occur substantially more dangerous. If you enact this policy, please prepare yourselves for the increase in climbing injuries and fatalities that will occur as climbers attempt routes with inadequate or unmaintained protection. I doubt many in the public will be take solace in the NPS and NFS's "clean climbing" philosophy when faced with injuries and deaths that are easily preventable in the era of modern climbing.

I fully understand and agree that climbing must be sustainable, and that protecting wilderness areas from over-development is important. But to attempt to completely eliminate modern climbing by burying it with bureaucracy is not the solution.