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Comments: Hi I am writing in opposition to the banning of climbing and permanent protection in our national parks for the following reasons. Rock climbing is a well-accepted and celebrated activity on the Coronado National Forest (CNF), with routes established well before the 1964 Wilderness Act. The CNF celebrates rock climbing on its homepage as a major forest activity.

National Park websites, such as Yosemite and Rocky Mountain, have pages dedicated to rock climbing, climbing ethics, and leave no trace ethics in their parks.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the 1964 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 and Park character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness and National Park climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of a climbing route.

Again, rock climbing and environmental protection go hand in hand, in fact many conservation efforts are lead by passionate climbers working to preserve the wonders of the nature they enjoy so intimately.

Thank you,