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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concerns about the recently proposed policy on wilderness climbing and to earnestly request your reconsideration of its implications.

Climbing is not just a hobby for me; it's a profound passion that fosters a connection to nature and our rich cultural heritage. I echo the environmental concerns articulated by the Access Fund and comprehend the impact climbing can have on our surroundings. However, the current policy seems excessively rigid and runs the risk of alienating the very community it seeks to regulate.

The historical link between climbing and fixed anchors, especially bolts, is integral to our climbing legacy. These anchors go beyond being mere safety tools; they contribute to the cultural fabric of our community by shaping the climbs that define our heritage. Wilderness areas have been pivotal in the history of climbing, and many climbs are situated in these areas. I am particularly apprehensive that the new policies may compromise the safety of climbers and the integrity of fixed anchors, especially in traditional climbs. While I acknowledge the environmental impact of sport climbs, I do not believe it to be particularly large and losing access to them entirely would be a significant loss to the climbing community.

While recognizing the imperative of environmental preservation, the proposed regulations appear unduly stringent. Experience has shown that overly strict rules often result in non-compliance, proving impractical or even impossible to follow. I urge you to consider a balanced approach, one that addresses concerns without stifling the passion and dedication climbers bring to their craft.

A practical alternative could involve collaboration with existing governing bodies in popular climbing destinations, such as Yosemite and Joshua Tree, where effective regulation has been achieved. Additionally, reservation systems, successfully implemented in locations like Red Rocks and Yosemite, offer a viable solution without imposing intricate paperwork for each piece of hardware on climbers.

My primary concern centers around the bureaucratic hurdles introduced by the proposed policy. Navigating complex paperwork for individual pieces of hardware seems impractical and risks discouraging participation in regulated activities. This could inadvertently lead to the unintended consequence of losing valuable climbing areas.

In conclusion, I appeal to your sense of fairness and practicality. Let's strive for a solution that balances environmental concerns with the preservation of the essence of climbing. Collaborating with existing governing bodies and implementing proven reservation systems can offer a more effective and practical approach to regulation. I appreciate your time and consideration of these crucial matters.

Thank you for your service, and I anticipate a thoughtful resolution that benefits both our natural treasures and the vibrant climbing community.

Sincerely,
James