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First name: Michael

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the National Park Service,

I have been an avid rock climber since 1992 with currently 31 years of experience. This amazing activity has transformed several aspects of my life, including my choice of where to live, my choice to pursue a degree in forestry, and my choice to travel all over the world seeking new challenges. It has taken me to over 20 countries and allowed me to connect with strangers on a deeper level as we share a common bond for the love of rock climbing. It influenced my decision to work for the National Forest Service. I have been a wildland firefighter with the USDA since 2005. I've had so many incredible experiences in the wilderness and national parks over that time because of my pursuit of this sport. I have no idea where I would be today without the inspiration of adventuring in places like Yosemite, Zion, Grand Teton, and Joshua Tree. I believe re categorizing, fixed anchors as prohibited permanent installations would have a devastating effect on current and future generations of climbers. Without the ability to place, these fixed anchors exploration of these incredible vertical wildernesses would be impossible. Fixed protection is critical for the safe ascent and descent of technical mountains and rock formations. As an outdoor advocate I have seen the sport grow significantly, and I do believe climbing management is necessary to protect the balance of our activities and its impacts on the environment. Climber's coalitions and advocacy groups have popped up all over the country to help land management agencies implement reasonable and sustainable practices. Please consider the widespread and long term loss this change in policy could have on our wonderful community.

Sincerely

Michael Vaughn Flagstaff, AZ