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Comments: To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your work and efforts to make wilderness places safe, inclusive, and accessible for all.

Stewardship is work that requires intention and a broad approach to caring for our countries natural places.

I am an outdoorsman and one of my favored ways to appreciate nature is through rock climbing.

In regards to the current considerations re: bolt prohibition in National parks and public lands, I have these concerns.

Fixed anchors are a critical part of a climber's safety system. Prohibition of these critical pieces of climbing protection misses the mark. Well managed bolt anchors provide safer opportunities for climbers. Climbing communities continue to gladly assume responsibility for this equipment, and many organizations exist to help in providing these anchors and helping local climbing advocacy groups to work towards safety.

It is not reasonable to shift this change in acceptance of climbing anchors after more than 50 years of positive progress in this practice. You have allowed, managed, and authorized this for decades.

To reiterate, climbers will experience unnecessary safety issues which may result in danger to themselves, and others. Planning on fixed anchors allows climbers to discover accessible climbing opportunities without placing them in situations that require on the spot problem solving which may result in far more damage to natural terrain and place more risk into what should be an enjoyed recreational activity with certain inevitable and assumed risks. We shouldn't add more risks to these situations.

Prohibiting fixed anchors and removing any existing anchors will result in dangerous practices, as mentioned above but it will also force people to interpret gray areas of the law where there need not be any gray. Land owners, public land stewards, and others should be looking for guidance on this from nationally recognized climbing advocacy groups like the Access Fund, the American Safe Climbing Association, and countless local climbing advocacy groups.

Lastly - bolt prohibition ignores the proud heritage of American rock climbing that has inspired people far outside of the realms of vertical rock climbing. We've all heard "Have you seen Free Solo?". There is no doubt that the history of climbing in the USA would not have been possible with such restrictive bolting considerations. All forward bolting policies must also protect these existing routes from removal. These are American treasures.

Thank you for your time in receiving these comments. In closing, I DO NOT SUPPORT BOLT PROHIBITION. Please be certain to allow for the responsible management of fixed anchors and bolts on public and federal lands.

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