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Comments: As a lifelong climber I am deeply concerned by the proposed interpretation of the Wilderness Act that would designate fixed anchors as prohibited "installations". I certainly understand the need and desire to protect our public lands from misuse and abuse, however, the proposed bolt prohibition would have a staggeringly negative impact on the sport of climbing and its many many participants. In addition, this would also negatively impact communities that gain the benefit of tourism that climbing often brings.

The US has a long history of climbing and it is hard to imagine seeing policy shift away from supporting such an incredible activity that allows for accessing natural areas in a unique and beautiful way. However, with the surge in popularity over the recent years I'm sure there is a greater need than ever for management but the proposed plan seems problematic in regard to the specific points listed below:

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

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness 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 climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Thanks for your time.