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Comments: As a climber of more than 40 years, and one who has spent significant amounts of time climbing in wilderness areas, I oppose any ban on fixed anchors in national forests / wilderness areas. Fixed anchors make many routes possible that otherwise cannot be climbed safely. Even more important, they are necessary for rappelling off routes that require no fixed anchors except at rappel stations.

The visual and environmental impact of fixed anchors is minimal, certainly in comparison to trails, pack animals, well-used campsites, and gathering fire wood. Furthermore, prohibiting the use of power drills in the wilderness (which I support) guarantees that few anchors will be placed -- hand drilling anchors is beyond tedious and virtually all climbers avoid doing so.

Please amend this directive to allow the continued use of fixed anchors.