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Comments: Rock climbing in my backyard of Rocky Mountain National Park, the Indian Peaks Wilderness, and other wilderness areas has given me not only the most memorable and powerful moments in my life, but has also taught me to be a good steward of the land and preserve it for future generations. This is why I am writing to comment on the draft policy on fixed anchors in wilderness. Fixed anchors are an essential piece in the climbers' safety system, and aren't prohibited installations under the wilderness act. We must KEEP EXISTING POLICIES allowing the judicious use of fixed anchors in order to both protect wilderness character and provide for "primitive and unconfined recreation." Federal agencies have successfully allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades, and prohibiting wilderness climbing anchors is not only unreasonable, it is massively unsafe and will lead to many accidents in complex vertical terrain. It will create obstacles to regular maintenance of fixed anchors, sway time-sensitive life-and-death decisions by climbers, and most importantly create obstacles for "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation" in wilderness.

Furthermore, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is both unenforceable and confusing. Fixed anchors are both unobtrusive and vital to maintaining climbing access in wilderness areas, and I urge you to NOT classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" in wilderness areas.