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Comments: The issue with the use of fixed anchors anywhere is so much more simple than it is being made. Rock, ice and alpine routes are nothing more than vertical trails. No organization takes issue with building water bars to control runoff, hand lines in technical areas for user safety, steps created from rocks, or signage when necessary. Depending on the environment and the style of anchor place the life span of fixed anchors is between 20 and 60 years. Why is there an issue with something less intrusive and even less visible. The thought of not being permitted to replace aging or damaged hardware is irresponsible and will directly lead to accidents and fatalities.

The last time fixed anchors were removed for the sake of wilderness a fatal incident occurred in less than a month. Put yourself in the shoes of the recovery team or the individual tasked with notifying family and explaining their loved one is gone, because someone at a desk who will never see any of the hardware in question thought it wasn't wild enough.

I am a professional guide operating in the US Forest Service area. The idea of removing these anchors is not only dangerous but counters the wild spirit of exploration in West Virginia.