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Comments: I'm writing to urge the USFS to revise their draft policy to allow for fixed anchors in wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are a key piece of climbing safety. The climbing community has been responsible for maintaining fixed anchors for decades, and existing policies allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than 50 years. The draft policy as written would put climber safety at risk, especially over time as older anchors are not replaced. Eventually, these safety risks would relegate some of America's greatest climbs and climbing history to the past by rendering them inaccessible.

Wilderness climbing anchors have been allowed and managed for decades, and are not prohibited under the Wilderness Act. Additionally, restricting the establishment of new routes to 'existing climbing opportunities is unenforceable. As worded, it's an oxymoron that will create confusion between land managers and climbers. To foster the history of America's outdoor exploration and the safety of climbers, I urge the USFS to alter their draft to allow for fixed anchors in wilderness areas.