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Comments: I am writing to express my concern over the proposed restrictions on fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. As a climber, I understand the need to balance environmental protection with the safety and traditions of climbing. Here are my key points:

Essential Safety Equipment: Fixed anchors are vital for climber safety and do not contradict the Wilderness Act's principles. Decades of their use have proven beneficial for both safety and wilderness character.

Unreasonable New Guidance: Blanket prohibitions on fixed anchors disregard their historical acceptance and the climbing community's ability to self-regulate and maintain these safety tools effectively.

Safety and Environmental Impact: Prohibiting fixed anchors will not only create safety hazards by complicating maintenance but will also lead to more environmentally damaging practices. Without bolts, climbers are forced to use trees for anchors, damaging root systems or even killing these vital natural resources. Bolts represent a safer, more environmentally friendly option.