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Comments: Fixed anchors play a crucial role in ensuring the safety of climbers and are expressly permitted under the Wilderness Act, avoiding any violation of regulations. Adhering to established climbing protocols that have endorsed the judicious use of fixed anchors for well over half a century proves to be instrumental in preserving the character of Wilderness areas while accommodating primitive and unconfined climbing activities.

It is deemed unreasonable for federal agencies to institute novel guidance policies universally prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors, especially when they have historically permitted, managed, and sanctioned fixed anchors for an extended period.

The prohibition of fixed anchors introduces safety concerns by imposing unwarranted impediments to the routine maintenance of these anchors, a responsibility diligently undertaken by the climbing community. Given that critical safety decisions often necessitate immediate action, any authorization process should refrain from hindering such decisions. The management of fixed anchor maintenance must be structured to incentivize secure anchor replacements and avoid jeopardizing the removal of established climbing routes.

The outright prohibition of fixed anchors obstructs the proper exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers are encouraged to permit climbers to explore Wilderness in a manner that allows for real-time decisions essential for navigating intricate vertical terrain.

Furthermore, the prohibition of fixed anchors poses a significant threat to America's esteemed climbing legacy, potentially erasing some of the world's most remarkable climbing achievements. Climbing management policies should be crafted to safeguard existing routes from removal.

Attempting to limit the creation of new climbing routes exclusively to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is impractical and is likely to result in confusion among both land managers and climbers. The climbing management policy for non-Wilderness areas should support the possibility of introducing new anchors unless and until thorough analyses conclusively establish the necessity of restricting climbing to safeguard cultural and natural resources.