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Comments: \*Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

\*It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) requirements will be a burdensome requirement that underfinanced and understaffed agencies will never be able to perform easily. This new exception process will clearly limit fixed anchor authorizations and restrict the ability of climbers to make in-the-moment safety decisions. Every MRA decision document will open the agency to litigation and the process adds an unnecessary bureaucratic step for managing sustainable climbing.

\*Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

\*Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

\*Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

\*Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

\*We are now experiencing the first generation that will not live longer than our parents. I believe this is largely due to sedentary lifestyles and locking ourselves inside instead of being out in nature. Your agency has been charged with ensuring the incredible public lands of this country will be available for our society to recreate. I think we should be adjusting these bills to encourage responsible use, not limiting use. This burdensome bill will make it impossible and dangerous for climbers to use our public lands and will discourage more people from getting out and recreating in responsible ways.