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Comments: Hello, I'm a climber and resident of the Pacific Northwest, and I want to share my thoughts on proposed legislation regarding fixed anchors on National Forest land. I detail my thoughts below, but in brief, I support the presence and legality of fixed anchors on public lands. Thoughtfully-placed, low-profile anchors are not only essential to a low-impact and decades-old tradition of climbing in these spaces, but they follow a precedent of other safety equipment installed in similar areas for decades. And banning fixed anchors would only lead to the proliferation of tat and other temporary anchors that are more unsightly and less safe for climbers.

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.

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.