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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.

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.

Climbing anchors are an essential piece of safety equipment especially for those coming from an indoor climbing gym environment. Most people nowadays learn in a climbing gym and transition into the outdoors. Using bolted routes whether newly created or pre-existing is the most familiar and safest way for the new climbers to enjoy climbing in the great outdoors. "Trad" climbing using removable equipment such as cams, nuts, etc. is not only completely foreign to new climbers but, it used improperly can result in severe injury or death, whereas a familiar and recognizable bolt placement is much safer and easily used by climbers whether new or seasoned.