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Comments: I am a former wilderness trails crew member and a massive wilderness advocate so I hope you will listen to my comment with some standing. This document is misguided and climbing is an incredible way to experience wilderness in a way that preserves its character.

DONT get me started on all the back bending I watched the USFS do in the Frank Church wilderness to outfitters. These people actively try to impede on others wilderness experience by building camps, leaving trash (my crew carried out over 80 lbs one hitch), using guns, and being the antithesis of LNT. That stuff kills the character of wilderness, not some climbers wanting to have safe anchors...

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.