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Comments: Please continue to allow fixed anchors in wilderness areas.

I have had so many great adventures and fun times in the wilderness areas like the Linville Gorge and RMNP. Fixed anchors are such a great aspect of a long day of adventure climbing. It allows climbers to rappel down, without having to leave gear, or sling trees, from routes safely. Rappelling can be extremely dangerous, especially when tired. Having a fixed system reduces some of this risk.

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.

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.