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Comments: I am 67 years old and have been rock climbing since i was 16 years old. I still regularly do.

Rock climbing and mountaineering have a long history in areas now considered Wilderness areas. The use of fixed anchors is a critical safety issue. Maintenance and replacement of dangerous old anchor systems, be them bolts, pitons, or other, are a necessity where climbing has become increasingly popular.

The costs incurred in climbing accident rescues, or in any lives lost due to failed anchors, cannot be allowed to become an increasing problem because of regulations prohibiting anchor replacement.

Removal of climbing in Wilderness areas as a solution to anchor replacement negates the history of climbing's importance to American achievements and history.

There is also a history of good-faith negotiated Federal guidelines and policies of climbing in Wilderness areas that cannot be simply thrown out. Wilderness climbing anchors across the country have been allowed, managed, and authorized under Federal guideline on fixed anchors for decades.

Halting the making of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" in non-Wilderness areas is unreasonable and difficult to catalog and enforce, while confusing both Federal and State land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policies should allow for new anchors unless climbing should be restricted to protect native cultural heritage and rare natural resources.

Thank you