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Comments: I am writing to you as a self proclaimed climbing enthusiast. Based on my understanding of the draft being put forward on fixed anchors in the Wilderness, I not only primarily have concerns for the future safety of climbers, but also the resource tax it's going to have on the NPS and USFS, and the impact it will have on a truly spiritual wilderness opportunity that myself, and thousands of others share.

Firstly regarding safety, I recognize that there is an attempt to look over fixed anchors through a Minimal Requirements Analysis. However, while this seems ideal, the amount of resources to check EVERY fixed anchor that exists through all wilderness land, would be extremely loaded, and frankly cost a lot of funding. To prohibit all fixed anchors until otherwise evaluated, to us climber's, sounds the equivalent of permanent banishment of those climbing areas. Where this becomes a safety issue, though, is if anchors start getting removed, and climber's ignorant to this attempting climbing these routes, not realizing they are not safe until it is far too late. Fixed anchors have been a part of a common understanding in the climbing community upon thousands of routes for several decades, it would be extremely difficult to shift these ways overnight. This is not something people need to just "get used to", their lives could depend on it without them knowing.

Segwaying from this point, I would also theorize that this difficult transition in the climbing world would also lead to a strong increase in usage of NPS resources, due to the increase in rescues that would likely occur. Considering there would already be an increase in needed resources to enforce this prohibition, I would think it difficult for NPS and USFS to be spread further thin.

Rock Climbing, and particularly wilderness climbing is a wonderful way for those inclined and daring to to further deepen their experience with the outside world. It is a way of life that we are fortunate enough as human beings to experience, and to experience safely. I believe there is a way to mitigate the preservation of wilderness without risking the safety of thousands, as well as this way. We all want to see wilderness thrive, a compromise is hoped for and highly appreciated.