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Comments: I have been using fixed anchors in wilderness areas, many National Forests and National Parks since 1975 when I first started climbing. Devils Tower, Wind River Range, Yosemite National Park, Black Hills of South Dakota, Sawtooth Wilderness, Pusch Peak Wilderness to name a few.

These anchors are essential and need to be maintained to safely climb and retreat from climbing in these areas. They also are less unsightly than the old practice of leaving webbing or rope wrapped around a tree or rock to rappel/descend back to the ground. This also lead to a good deal of fatalities when these anchors failed. I can attribute the death of at least 4 people I know to failure of these primitive anchors with the most recent being 2 years ago in Joshua Tree Natl. Park.

Climbing has a rich legacy in the world and in this country. Being able to quest upward using your own physical, mental and technical skills to climb what appears to be unclimbable is a priceless experience. Placing fixed anchors and removeable gear (cams and stoppers, which are not always possible or we wouldn't need fixed anchors) to keep yourself reasonably safe are decisions you need to make in the moment.

Mountain and rock climbing's greatest achievements have been made possible with the use of fixed anchors.

Climbers have been accessing these areas with fixed anchors for 50+ years, which your/our agencies have allowed. The reasonable use of fixed anchors creates access for climbers. This in turn creates Wilderness supporters. More users equals more support for our natural areas. Once you have been there you never want to see it threatened or destroyed.

Removing existing fixed anchors is probably impossible and should not be undertaken. The climbs exist and the fixed anchors are presumed to be there and their removal could lead to serious injury and death.