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Comments: I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed prohibition of fixed climbing anchors in U.S. Wilderness areas. Fixed anchors, such as bolts and pitons, are crucial for the safety of climbers and the preservation of historic climbing routes. A blanket ban on these anchors could jeopardize climber safety and our climbing heritage.

I understand the importance of preserving natural wilderness areas and respect the mission of both your agencies in this regard. However, I believe there is a need for a balanced approach that recognizes the unique requirements of the climbing community. Fixed anchors, when used responsibly, do not have to conflict with wilderness values.

I urge you to consider alternatives to a total prohibition. These could include regulating the placement of new anchors, allowing the maintenance of existing ones, and working collaboratively with climbers and climbing organizations to ensure that their use is sustainable and minimally invasive.

The climbing community is deeply committed to the stewardship of our natural landscapes and is willing to engage in a dialogue to find a solution that serves both environmental conservation and climbing access.

Thank you for considering my perspective.