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Comments: Throughout American history, climbers have used fixed anchors in wilderness as an essential part of their safety system. They are not and have never been prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Having personally collaborated with the NPS and USFS in my volunteer role with climbing organizations discussing these anchors in wilderness areas in Washington, and their vital role in safety for climbers and USFS employees, I'm certain that 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.

Banning the anchors that climbers and rescue personnel have reasonably relied on for decades to protect their personal safety needlessly endangers lives (as an attorney myself, I can't imagine why the USFS would want to take this step). Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will destroy America's rich climbing legacy and its future in some of our most iconic lands. It would erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal in conformity with decades of law and tradition.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Jonah Harrison