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Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed policies that would prohibit fixed anchors in America's Wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are an essential part of a climber's safety system, and the judicious use of fixed anchors allows climbers to safely explore Wilderness areas while protecting both the climbers and the character of the Wilderness areas.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will lead to significant safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. The proposed policy does not seem to show an understanding of how fixed anchors work to protect both climbers and the Wilderness environment where climbers explore.

As an avid climber, I strongly oppose the draft policy, and suggest that the climbing community and access groups who value both the preservation of our natural land and the ability of climbers to explore this land be consulted in the formation of a policy for fixed anchors in our Wilderness areas.