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Comments: Prohibiting fixed anchors creates MAJOR safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors. If fixed anchors are prohibited, it could create safety issues by making it difficult to maintain them. The climbing community is responsible for maintaining these anchors, and they need to be replaced safely. Fixed anchors mitigate and prevent an immeasurable number of accidents each year. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Fixed anchors are important for climbers' safety and are not prohibited under the Wilderness Act. Existing policies that allow fixed anchors have been in place for years and have done a good job of protecting the wilderness while allowing climbing. It doesn't make sense for federal agencies to create new policies that prohibit fixed anchors when they have been allowed for decades. Prohibiting fixed anchors could threaten America's climbing legacy and erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.

Pivoting restriction of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.