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Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to ensure the public can safely engage in climbing activities in public lands while continuing to protect Wilderness character.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. 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. Requiring a MRA for the replacement of and new fixed anchors will require increased time and capacity from resources managers, in addition to impeding the ability of the climbing community to maintain safe climbs. As existing gear ages and becomes unsafe, it requires immediate attention to ensure the public doesn't continue to climb on unsafe fixed gear. The MRA process could impede swift action and put people at risk of injury. People will continue climbing on public lands and it's critical that policies continue to support the use of fixed anchors and encourage safe and timely replacement. Furthermore, steps can be taken to reduce the visual impact this protective gear such as paint that matches the color of the rock.