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## Title:

Comments: An integral component of climbers' safety systems, fixed anchors are not classified as prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Adhering to established climbing policies that have permitted the judicious use of fixed anchors for over half a century is crucial for safeguarding Wilderness character while facilitating primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to introduce new guidance policies nationwide that forbid Wilderness climbing anchors, especially considering their decades-long history of allowing, managing, and authorizing fixed anchors. The prohibition of fixed anchors poses safety concerns by creating unnecessary hurdles for routine maintenance, a responsibility should red by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often demand immediate action, and any authorization process should not hinder these decisions. Managing fixed anchor maintenance should encourage safe replacements and avoid the removal of climbing routes. Banning fixed anchors hampers the appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should permit climbers to navigate Wilderness spaces with the flexibility required for in-themoment decisions when facing intricate vertical terrain. The prohibition of fixed anchors jeopardizes America's rich climbing legacy and the potential loss of some of the world's most remarkable climbing accomplishments. Climbing management policies must prioritize the protection of existing routes from removal. Limiting the creation of new routes exclusively to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is impractical and is likely to generate confusion among both land managers and climbers. The climbing management policy for non-Wilderness areas should uphold the potential for establishing new anchors unless and until comprehensive analyses establish the necessity of restricting climbing activities to safeguard cultural and natural resources.