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Comments: Through climbing outdoors, I have been able to access and appreciate the wilderness of AZ. It offers a space for healing and appreciation of our natural resources. Unlike many other methods of exploring the outdoors, climbing has such a small footprint and therefore minimally affects the wildlife.

Fixed anchors are an essential to remaining safe while climbing outside and have been an accepted installations under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

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. Taking action on critical safety issues should be a fast process without any chance for delay, because this could be a matter of life or death for someone who decides to climb the route if they don't understand the safety issue until it is too late. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal, and support expeditious maintenance of fixed anchors.