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Comments: As I understand it, the proposed changes to the rules regarding fixed anchors in wilderness areas will raise the risk of climbing in these areas to unacceptable levels, without significantly reducing the environmental impact to these areas.

Furthermore the changes proposed will be significantly challenging to enforce consistently without greatly expanding the number of rangers with the skills and experience required to monitor climbing routes in wilderness areas.

A more effective alternative would be to create climbing specific guidelines, in concert with certified guides, route developers, and other experts to ensure permanent anchors are reliable, necessary, and have minimal impact to the environment. The climbing community and land managers will educate climbers on best practices and what not to do. Climbers would be complete a trip report documenting the conditions of the route and any fixed anchors, along with any updates made to the route (such as replacing the rings and webbing on a rappel anchor or replacing an outdated 1/4 bolt with a modern one).

Any effective management of climbing in wilderness areas will require the active cooperation of climbers and land management.