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Comments: The use of fixed anchor systems in climbing are an essential part of a safe climbing system. Fixed anchors 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 protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It would be a better approach to create a system of management that works with various stakeholders not just blanketly banning fixed anchors. Throughout this country's history prohibitions have backfired and created more problems in their wake. Banning or eliminating the use of or replacement of fixed anchors will not stop climbing but will cause much more need of rescues, recoveries, and ultimately deaths because climbing will become much more unsafe. This will put a strain on already struggling NSFS budgets.

People should be encouraged to explore and interact in a responsible way but people cannot truly explore and interact with mountains without the safety of fixed anchors. These protected lands are for the people and people should not be prevented from enjoying them. Restricting the establishment 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.