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Comments: The proposals to remove fixed anchors from Wilderness demonstrate a profound ignorance of the history of Wilderness climbing in this country, and a naive reading of the understanding of what Wilderness means in the context of this country's public lands.

It is unreasonable and illogical for federal agencies to author new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. One has to wonder whether those authoring these new policy proposals have spent any time at all reading the historical policy documents written by those that preceded them.

Fixed anchors are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than 50 years will more effectively protect the wilderness character of places designated as wilderness. History has clearly demonstrated that quality fixed anchors have lower visual impact than ad-hoc fixed anchors made by climbers. Established trails and horse travel in wilderness each have far greater visual impact than fixed climbing anchors.

Wilderness climbing is an inherent part of the climbing experience, and changing the current policy isn't going to change that. Preserving current access and policy will ensure that these anchors are maintained in a discrete and safe manner. Restricting the policy will reduce the quality of the anchors and increase the visual impact.

Do the right thing, do your homework and preserve the current rules for installation of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas.