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Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ban on fixed climbing anchors in wilderness areas. As a passionate member of the climbing community, I believe that this decision could have significant negative implications for climbers' safety and the preservation of our natural spaces.

Fixed anchors play an indispensable role in climbers' safety systems and are not in conflict with the principles outlined in the Wilderness Act. Over the past half-century, existing climbing policies have effectively balanced safety measures while preserving the primitive and unconfined nature of wilderness climbing.

I urge the reconsideration of this proposed ban, as it seems unreasonable for federal agencies to suddenly restrict an activity that has been managed and authorized for decades. Furthermore, such a prohibition could create safety hazards by impeding the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility shouldered by the climbing community.

Maintaining the flexibility for in-the-moment decisions and ensuring safe anchor replacement processes are crucial aspects that any authorization process should incorporate. Additionally, obstructing fixed anchors would limit appropriate exploration of wilderness areas, hindering climbers' ability to navigate complex vertical terrain safely.

Moreover, this ban poses a significant threat to America's rich climbing legacy and could potentially erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policies should aim to protect existing routes from removal while fostering responsible climbing practices.

I respectfully urge the National Park Service to reconsider this proposal and consider alternative measures that ensure both climbers' safety and the preservation of wilderness areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.