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Comments: There are multiple issues with this proposal, and it will negatively impact the safety and accessibility of climbing in the wilderness.

First, fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. It is unclear why federal agencies need to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Safety is extremely important here. Prohibiting fixed anchors will impose obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Most importantly, fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Finally, prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.