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Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose the prohibition of fixed anchors in wilderness areas. I have used many fixed anchors in the US forests. Fixed anchors make many of the country's iconic climbs possible, and removing them would make a mess of leftover soft materials whose degradation in the elements often leads to fatal accidents when they fail. I have also climbed in areas where there is an overabundance of fixed anchors (many places in the alps), and I feel that we do not have that problem in the national parks in the united states because the climbing communities have much more respect for preserving the spirit of adventure while making sure that retreat is possible if an accident should occur. I have also been a first responder on an accident on the desert towers around Moab, and the fixed anchors on the tower made it possible to retrieve an injured climber and set them up in an area where retrieval by helicopter was possible. It's unclear what would have happened without the anchors, but it likely would have been far worse. I urge you to reconsider rewriting nearly 50 years of policy under the Wilderness Act and instead consult the climbing community for a better and more productive way forward.