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Comments:

1. Fixed anchors are vital for climbers' safety systems and are not considered prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Upholding longstanding climbing policies supporting judicious fixed anchor use preserves Wilderness character while accommodating primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

2. Federal agencies creating new guidance to ban Wilderness climbing anchors nationwide contradicts decades of allowing, managing, and authorizing fixed anchors. Such restrictions are unreasonable.

3. Prohibiting fixed anchors poses safety risks by hindering regular maintenance, which is the responsibility of the climbing community. Safety decisions often demand immediate action, and any authorization process should not impede them. Managing fixed anchor maintenance should prioritize safe replacements without jeopardizing climbing routes.

4. Banning fixed anchors limits appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should enable climbers to make on-the-spot decisions necessary for navigating intricate vertical terrain.

5. Prohibiting fixed anchors jeopardizes America's rich climbing history and could erase significant climbing accomplishments worldwide. Climbing management policies should safeguard existing routes from removal.

Limiting the creation of new routes solely to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is impractical and will lead to confusion among both land managers and climbers. The climbing management policy for non-Wilderness areas ought to preserve the chance for new anchors, unless and until assessments indicate a need to restrict climbing for the preservation of cultural or natural resources.