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Comments: I recently learned about a proposed policy change that would prohibit the use of fixed anchors in American Wilderness areas by classifying them as "prohibited installations" and I'm writing to express my concerns.

There are a number of reasons why this change will be harmful. Climbing has been an essential part of the history of many of our National Parks, and this legacy will be threatened by prohibiting fixed anchors. Fixed anchors have been allowed for more decades, and new guidance will make decisions around these extremely cumbersome. Fixed anchors are absolutely essential to climber safety, and by creating unnecessary obstacles to updating and maintaining these, it will put many climbers' lives at risk.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" is confusing and unenforceable. Non-wilderness climbing management should allow opportunities for new anchors unless they are determined to be in places that would threaten cultural and natural resources.