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Comments: Please consider reevaluating the proposed policy for fixed anchors. The well established history, culture, and ethics of climbing in Wilderness areas has a proven record of maintaining the ethos of the Wilderness Act for climbers with no discernible impact to other users seeking a primitive recreation experience in some of the most stunning places on earth. The continued use of fixed anchors should be allowed in Wilderness areas. These anchors are negligible in their impact to the surrounding environment and their provision of safety on climbing routes is essential. A fixed anchor is a very small piece of infrastructure needed for climbers to enjoy primitive recreation, just like a trail and road in Wilderness areas are needed by all to recreate in their own chosen manor. Please also consider reevaluating the proposed policy for restricting the establishment of new routes on non-Wilderness lands. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources. Maintaining current practices and regulation around fixed anchors and their maintenance and installation in Wilderness and non-Wilderness areas minimizes bureaucratic burden on land managers, and places safety decisions in the hands of climbers who are most adept and benefit most from this critical safety device.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Kluthe