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Comments: As an ardent climber for the last 30+ years I am very interested and concerned about the new policies you are developing regarding fixed anchors in wilderness areas.

- Climbing is a well-established traditional recreational use of our national parks and wilderness areas.

- Fixed anchors are well established devices used to protect climbers both during ascent of otherwise unsafe expanses of rock, and as points of protection for safe belays and for safe escapes (rappelling). They have been used for half a century or more. They are not prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act.

- Prohibiting fixed anchors or removing already existing anchors will create serious safety issues to climbers and to the search and rescue personnel responding to an emergency.

Please consider these points in your evaluation process.