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Comments: As someone who is an avid climber and canyoner, I use both of these sports to interact with America's wilderness areas. If the proposed directives regarding wilderness climbing were to go ahead, I would lose a lot of what I love to do in these wilderness areas. Fixed anchors have allowed me to go to places and experience nature in a way I would not be able to without them. I have been able to build a community of people who have a passion for exploring the wilderness areas thanks to fixed anchors. Fixed anchors have kept me safe as well. Rather than trying to down climb something that could easily result in serious injury or death, fixed anchors have allowed me to rappel and get to the ground safely. Fixed anchors keep everyone safer and reduces the call outs to SAR.

I understand the need for regulation and there are groups that would be willing to work with the NPS and USFS regarding fixed anchors, but to classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" and make it extremely difficult to install would be detrimental to the communities I am apart of. There has been 50 years of history of the climbing community working with the US government and the proposed directives could destroy that legacy. Yosemite is legendary around the world for rock climbing, along with numerous other wilderness areas. Tourists come from all over the world to climb in America's wilderness areas and fixed anchors are a key reason why.

I hope that the NPS and USFS recognizes the importance of fixed anchors to a large number of Americans and rather than prohibiting them, find ways to work with climbing groups. Climbing in America is some of the best in the world and I would hate to see the next generation of climbers unable to experience it.