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Comments: Hi,

I'm writing to voice concerns about the proposed restrictions on fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. As an avid climbing, fixed anchors are critical for my safety.

My primary worry is the safety implications of prohibiting fixed anchors. Areas with fixed anchors are significantly easier to safely retreat from, and when fixed anchors aren't available people frequently resort to ad-hoc, unsafe alternatives that damage the surrounding wilderness more. Prohibiting fixed anchors may hinder the appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Climbers should be allowed to explore these areas with the flexibility needed for in-the-moment decisions, especially when navigating complex terrain.

Also, limiting the creation of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is impractical, leading to confusion among land managers and climbers. The climbing policy for non-Wilderness areas should allow for new anchors unless analyses clearly indicate a need to restrict climbing to protect cultural and natural resources.

Please reconsider the proposed restrictions on fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. Maintaining the current climbing policies, which have proven effective for decades, is in the best interest of climbers and the preservation of Wilderness character.

-Matt