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Comments: To begin, I would like to acknowledge that fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and should not be considered "installations" under the wilderness act. Climbers have been following existing policies of anchor placement for over 50 years in our beautiful wild landscapes to great success and maintaining the character of the wilderness. These existing methods have protected climbers and allowed for primitive wilderness exploration for generations, and lead the way for generations to come. These new policies are restricting safety systems that have been managed and allowed for decades, riding on the back of a policy that was intended to preserve the exploration of our country's greatest wealth - our natural wild open spaces.

These policies obstruct climbers' abilities to navigate and explore wild spaces. Decision making and protection placement does not lend itself to a bureaucratic system. If climbing is a historical and important use of wild spaces, then the bodies that maintain that space must recognize the character of the activity itself being wild and unpredictable.

Beyond the wild character of wilderness climbing, the maintenance of popular routes is already a difficult task, taken on by members of the community and organizations working as stewards of both climbers, but more importantly, the environment. By placing obstacles in the path of critical safety decisions, this policy threatens climbers abilities to maintain routes and explore safely. The management of fixed anchors needs to be done in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement, without the risk of arbitrary removal of historic climbing routes.

The United States of America has a long, and rich history of rock climbing. We are well known for having some of the most wild cliffs and mountains in the world. This policy threatens to erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. These policies to promote and preserve exploration of our wilderness must preserve existing routes.

Furthermore, trying to restrict the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable. Opportunities for new anchors should be maintained in non-wilderness areas until analyses shows that an area is of cultural or natural significance.