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Comments: I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed procedures to fixed anchors and equipment in wilderness areas.

I consider myself an environmentalist and always do my best to limit impact in any outdoor environment but especially wilderness. I've been in wilderness areas throughout the US including even getting engaged deep in Wyoming's Wind Rivers. While I've never placed a fixed anchor myself, I've used fixed anchors numerous times in my 30+ years of climbing. The negative impact of anchors seems to be nearly nil in my experience. While I know they are they are they and they facilitate my experience in the wilderness, they are not what I notice in the backcountry. Loads or other things like trails, signs, bear boxes and pack animals all are much more noticeable in the wilderness. Anchors are not seen by non-climber user groups and take up a fraction of the space that a trail does.

While I understand the language does not ban anchors, the idea that the the park service will be able to reasonably facilitate any sort of approval process seems unlikely. The agencies are underfunded as it is and it feels like the solution will be to simply say no. I've work my entire career in the government contracting space and see first hand how budget dictates actions within agencies regardless of what is best or right.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and concerns on the topic.

Regards,

Chris Brooks  
Fort Collins, CO