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Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies for wilderness climbing anchors when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors across the country for decades. It will create unnecessary risk and safety issues to maintaining and servicing existing anchors, which is a responsibility that the climbing community has taken upon itself for decades. Fixed anchor maintenance and management needs to be undertaken in a way that emphasizes safe anchor replacement, and doesn't risk the removal of pre-existing routes or their anchors. Safe exploration of wilderness terrain requires in the moment decisions about risk management and safe anchor placement. Any legislation limiting anchor placement compromises safe access to wilderness terrain and places unnecessary risks upon climbers and adventurers. Any policies regarding fixed anchors needs to ensure the protection of pre-existing anchors and routes in order to protect the United States' rich legacy of climbing and adventuring.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.