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Comments: Fixed anchors are crucial for the safety of climbers and are not considered prohibited "installations" according to the Wilderness Act. Adhering to established climbing policies that have permitted the judicious use of fixed anchors for over fifty years will better preserve the Wilderness character while supporting primitive and unrestricted climbing in these areas.

It seems unreasonable for federal agencies to introduce new guidelines that prohibit Wilderness climbing anchors nationwide, especially considering their longstanding history of allowing, managing, and authorizing fixed anchors for decades.

The prohibition of fixed anchors could pose safety challenges by creating unnecessary barriers to the routine maintenance of these anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Quick decisions regarding safety often need to be made on the spot, and any authorization process should not hinder these crucial decisions. Managing fixed anchor maintenance should encourage safe replacement and avoid the risk of removing climbing routes.

Moreover, the prohibition of fixed anchors hinders the appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should permit climbers to explore these areas in a manner that allows for in-the-moment decisions necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Additionally, prohibiting fixed anchors may jeopardize America's rich climbing legacy and potentially erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policies should focus on safeguarding existing routes from removal.

Lastly, limiting the creation of new climbing routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is impractical and will lead to confusion among both land managers and climbers. The climbing management policy for non-Wilderness areas should preserve the possibility of new anchors unless thorough analyses conclude that climbing must be restricted to safeguard cultural and natural resources.