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Comments: Fixed anchors play a vital role in ensuring the safety of climbers and should not be considered as forbidden "installations" according to the Wilderness Act. Adherence to the longstanding policies that support the careful use of fixed anchors, a practice in place for over fifty years, is crucial in preserving the natural essence of Wilderness areas while accommodating the needs of unrestrictive and traditional Wilderness climbing.

It is illogical for federal agencies to implement new regulations that ban climbing anchors in Wilderness areas nationwide, given their historical role in approving, managing, and endorsing the use of these anchors.

The ban on fixed anchors is likely to result in safety hazards by complicating the routine maintenance of these anchors, a duty traditionally carried out by the climbing community. Decisions regarding safety in climbing are often urgent, and any process of authorization should not hinder these immediate choices. The management of fixed anchor upkeep should be designed to encourage the safe replacement of anchors and prevent the dismantling of established climbing routes.

Disallowing fixed anchors also limits the proper exploration of Wilderness regions. It is essential for land managers to facilitate a climbing environment in Wilderness areas that allows for spontaneous decision-making, vital in tackling the complexities of vertical landscapes.

Furthermore, prohibiting fixed anchors poses a threat to the storied climbing heritage of America and risks obliterating some of the most significant climbing feats globally. It is imperative that climbing management policies safeguard existing routes against removal.

Additionally, the idea of limiting the creation of new climbing routes to only "existing climbing opportunities" in non-Wilderness lands is impractical and likely to cause misunderstanding among both land managers and climbers. Policies governing climbing in non-Wilderness areas should continue to allow the establishment of new anchors, barring conclusive evidence indicating the need for restrictions to protect cultural and natural resources.