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Comments: Climbing anchors are a very important and necessary piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act. Following current climbing policies allows the judicious use of fixed anchors. They have done so for more than a half century and will do much to protect Wilderness character.

It is unnecessary for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors to be managed by climbers for decades.

The removal of fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing obstacles to the regular maintenance of anchors, a responsibility currently undertaken by the climbing community. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not create added risk.

Prohibiting fixed anchors could obstruct the safe exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary for safety and protection of resources when exploring complex vertical terrain. Prohibiting fixed anchors will potentially threaten America's rich climbing legacy and possibly affect some of the world's greatest climbing routes. Climbing management policy must protect existing routes from removal.