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Comments: Good morning,

I wanted to reach out and add my community's voice in Knoxville to address the evaluation of fixed anchors and therefore climbing in wilderness areas. Below are some of the key points that address why our parks and therefore wilderness areas should preserve the infrastructure around rock climbing and why we should work together with the local climber coalitions.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited under the Wilderness Act.

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

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

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

We are one of the most active, respectful, and passionate outdoor user groups when it comes to adventuring in and appreciating these wide open spaces! Thank you for hearing our voices through these submissions.