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Comments: I am writing to express my concern with the new policy that would affect fixed climbing anchors in the wilderness. Climbing has always been an important use of wilderness areas, since before the Wilderness Act was even passed. Furthermore, climbers have historically been a supportive and respectful user group of parks and wilderness areas. It is therefore important that fixed anchors are permitted to preserve this important legacy. In the same way that bridges, trails, and signs are the minimum infrastructure for safely hiking, fixed anchors are the minimum infrastructure for safely climbing.

New proposals that would prohibit fixed anchors in the wilderness would make unsafe situations for climbers that would ultimately be extremely costly and dangerous. Not only would it put climbers in peril, it would also cause situations in which costly rescues would have to be used more often and it would be prohibitively costly to remove all of these fixtures. Prohibiting fixed anchors would go against the original Wilderness Act, which is designed to allow appropriate exploration using minimum infrastructure.

Finally, prohibiting anchors would threaten America's rich climbing legacy, which goes back to before climbers of the Sierra Club initially wrote the language and advocated to protect America's wilderness. Climbers have historically been one of the most staunch advocates of environmental protection, so it's important to allow them to have the same minimum infrastructure as any other user group.