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Comments: I am a climber and emergency physician writing to oppose the proposed prohibition on fixed anchors at wilderness climbing destinations. While I understand the spirit of the wilderness act, and have worked on trail crews within wilderness areas, I also understand the high value of anchors both for climbers, as well as technical rescue when individuals continue to recreate. I have assisted with rescues throughout Utah, Alaska and other wilderness areas, in which fixed anchors were essential to maintain safety of both patients and rescuers. In these situations, it is notable that alternative rescue operations would be even higher impact, from using extensive vegetation anchors to helicopter operations for life-threatening cases.

Small and unobtrusive bolts are not "installations" any more than are blazes, shelters, privies, water bars or trail signage. Removing them will have a disproportionate negative impact both on recreation and safety.

Please continue to allow fixed anchors and work with the climbing and rescue communities to minimize their locations and impacts to meet public interest.