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Comments: Thanks for taking the time to review these comments. I'm a longtime climber, backcountry skier, trail runner and lover of public lands. I want to add my voice to this very important discussion. While I greatly respect the wilderness act and think it has done tremendous work protecting our public lands, requiring all climbing anchors in wilderness area to undergo administrative review seems like a significant overreach. Climbing and climbing anchors predate the wilderness act and in my opinion they are compatible with the wilderness act without pre-authorization.

The real challenge is that anchors are typically installed by volunteers and often times those folks do not have the administrative capacity to engage in a lengthy permitting process. While there have been some notable recent cases of inappropriate anchor installation. The overwhelming majority of fixed anchors are carefully placed with great care and consideration given to their necessity and location. I do not think a lengthy review process will improve this situation, especially when considering the limited resources of Parks and USFS officials to devote time and resources to such a process.

I also believe that restricting the installation of fixed anchors will endanger climbers and cause harm to wilderness areas. For example, many routes I have climbed in the North Cascades National Park do not have fixed anchors, instead relying on trees. These very fragile alpine trees see significant impact from this use and successive parties tend to leave webbing tied around them to maintain the anchor. The end result is typically a large pile of "tat" tattered old slings, more plastics polluting our natural spaces. Fixed anchors are much longer lasting, less visually offensive, can be placed in the safest locations, and can minimize impacts to fragile alpine fauna.

I think we are making a mountain out of a mole hill here. With the devastating impacts of climate change literally burning millions of acres of our public lands and causing pest and pathogen issues to kill millions more I just don't think that climbing anchors are an issue worth spending more of our limited public resources on. Thank you!