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Comments: I am strongly opposed to this proposal to prohibit fixed anchors in NPS wilderness areas. Here are 3 reasons for my opposition:

1. It is incorrect to characterize fixed anchors as 'prohibited installations'. They have been used for many decades without any sense that they are in violation of the wilderness nature of the areas in question. On the contrary, they facilitate \*appropriate\* exploration of these wilderness areas.

2. Removal of fixed anchors will greatly increase the danger to climbers, both by making the maintenance of existing anchors impossible (so that climbers risk the failure of worn out or loose anchors) and by disallowing the use of anchors to render climbs appropriately protectable.

3. A prohibition on fixed anchors will bring an end to America's rich climbing history and world-leading production of climbers by destroying appropriate access to the fantastic climbing resources within our own borders. The need to go abroad in order to develop and pursue the highest achievements in climbing will create a significant barrier to access for the majority of climbers.