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Comments:

Fixed anchors, crucial for climbers' safety, are not banned under the Wilderness Act and have been part of the climbing landscape for over fifty years, aligning with policies that protect Wilderness character while supporting primitive climbing. The recent move by federal agencies to prohibit Wilderness climbing anchors contradicts their longstanding acceptance and management of these anchors, potentially undermining safety by hindering regular maintenance—a task typically handled by climbers. Such prohibitions not only pose safety risks but also hinder exploration in Wilderness areas, as climbers often need to make spontaneous decisions in challenging terrains. Furthermore, banning fixed anchors could jeopardize America's rich climbing heritage and lead to the loss of significant climbing routes, underscoring the need for policies that safeguard these routes and support responsible climbing practices.