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Comments: Fixed anchors offer a unique opportunity for greater accessibility. I see fixed anchors the same way I see trails and even designated campgrounds; yes it has an effect on the land, albeit a lot less noticeable than trails and campgrounds, but in return, it allows for a safer, more sustainable, and more equitable resource to experience and explore the outdoors. Removing old anchors, prohibiting new routes to be bolted, or to limit some of the required maintenance of old routes, will unavoidably detract from our public lands's accessibility to all who want to enjoy them.

Part of the accessibility that fixed anchors offer is, understandably, safety. However, just as important, although often overlooked, is that fixed anchors also have a huge positive impact with making these outdoor areas and activities accessible to people who cannot financially afford more protective equipment, or even more permits, just to enjoy their outdoor passions of choice in their public lands. I personally know, that I would not have been able to get into what is now my favorite way to experience the outdoors, without the existence of free, safe, and accessible routes with fixed anchors.

But going back to the safety piece, fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.