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Comments: Climbing is a recreational activity with an illustrious history that predates all agencies and parties involved in this debate. The use of fixed anchors is necessary for safely ascending and descending many routes in wilderness areas. Most importantly, they are not prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act as some special interest groups are trying to argue. The impact of fixed anchors in wilderness is far less deleterious than the resulting impact if they were banned or overly regulated. Increased accidents, injuries and death needing emergency intervention by SAR or other agencies and restricting or banning a historic recreational activity would likely result in civil disobedience in the form of protest and illegal activity would prevail if the use of fixed anchors in wilderness were overly regulated or banned.

Climbing is a significantly meaningful activity to me with a rich tradition in American culture and being able to do so safely in wilderness areas makes me proud to be an American.