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Comments: I'm wanting to share my concerns about the proposed ban on bolt/fixed anchors on public lands. The use of fixed anchors is integral to climbers' safety systems, and it's essential to consider improving existing guidance rather than outright opposing the proposals.

While recognizing the importance of protecting Wilderness character, it's crucial to acknowledge that fixed anchors have been responsibly used for over half a century, aligning with established climbing policies. Implementing a nationwide ban seems unreasonable, especially considering the historical management and authorization of fixed anchors by federal agencies.

One major concern is the potential safety issues that may arise from hindering the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. In-the-moment decisions are often necessary for critical safety situations, and any authorization process should facilitate rather than impede these decisions.

Furthermore, a blanket prohibition on fixed anchors may obstruct the appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas, limiting climbers' ability to navigate challenging terrains safely.

Beyond safety considerations, there's a risk to America's rich climbing legacy and the potential erasure of some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. The focus of climbing management policy should be on preserving existing routes rather than their removal.

Restricting new route establishment to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands raises concerns about enforceability and potential confusion. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain flexibility for new anchors unless specific analyses determine restrictions are necessary for the protection of cultural and natural resources.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed prohibitions, exploring collaborative solutions that strike a balance between safety, preservation of Wilderness character, and the continuation of climbing traditions.