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Comments: Hello,

It is absolutely essential that these does not go into effect as it both jeopardizes the safety of climbers and the history of climbing.

1. Fixed anchors are a crucial component of climbers' safety systems and are not considered forbidden "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Adhering to established climbing policies that have permitted the judicious use of fixed anchors for over half a century will better safeguard the character of Wilderness areas while accommodating primitive and unrestricted Wilderness climbing.
2. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to introduce new guidance policies that universally prohibit Wilderness climbing anchors, especially considering their historical acceptance, management, and authorization for decades.
3. The prohibition of fixed anchors poses safety concerns by introducing unnecessary impediments to the regular maintenance of these anchors, a responsibility shouldered by the climbing community. Vital safety decisions often require immediate action, and any authorization process should not hinder these decisions. Managing fixed anchor maintenance should encourage safe replacement without risking the removal of climbing routes.
4. Prohibiting fixed anchors hinders the appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should permit climbers to explore Wilderness regions in a manner that allows for in-the-moment decisions essential for navigating complex vertical terrain.
5. The prohibition of fixed anchors jeopardizes America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's most remarkable climbing achievements. Climbing management policies should focus on safeguarding existing routes from being removed.

Also, 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.

Thank you for hearing us out! This is very important.