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Comments: The proposed policy will essentially end up being a moratorium on fixed anchors in the wilderness, as there is no way there will be adequate funding/manpower to address each individual proposed anchor installation across the country. This will negatively impact climbers experience and safety, and undoubtedly create an unmanageable situation.

Stainless steel bolts, when camouflaged, are an extremely low impact and safe way to allow for safe climbing and descents, when placed with a hand drill they do not violate any portion of the wilderness act.

Climbing routes are akin to trails through the backcountry, bridges are often built and maintained in the wilderness to allow for access, why should anchors be any different than a bridge?

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.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

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.