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Comments: I strongly oppose a ban on fixed anchors in NPS Wilderness areas or any other areas. Here's why:

1. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Climbers currently follow existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors and have done so for more than a half century. Having fixed anchors protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

Please do not place a ban on fixed anchors. They are accepted in developed and undeveloped countries all around the world in and out of wilderness areas. As a country we should encourage and remove obstacles to healthy, fun and safe outdoor activities. Climbing is one of those activities. Please do not place this unreasonable ban on fixed anchors.