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Comments:

I am writing as a longtime climber to oppose the designation of climbing anchors as prohibited installations. I also care deeply about conservation and have professional experience conducting conservation research in US wilderness areas.

I believe the current policies allowing responsible use of fixed anchors in climbing are entirely consistent with preserving wilderness character while providing access to climbing in remote areas. Fixed anchors are small, inert objects that are nearly impossible to spot unless one is actively climbing a route. They also make no meaningful impact on flora or fauna.

Moreover, fixed anchors are critical for safe climbing, as is their maintenance. Strict regulations on the placement and maintenance of fixed anchors would therefore pose serious safety concerns.

Climbing is incredibly important to me and my community, and it inspires me to advocate for and protect wilderness areas. I see the regulation of fixed anchors as something that will provide no benefit to wilderness, while seriously threatening the historically and culturally important activity of climbing.