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Comments: Allow fixed bolts!!! This is a matter of safety and keeping climbers alive. Fixed bolts are safe to rocks, and save the lives of climbers. Climbers rely on fixed bolts to safely carry their weight when they fall. Without bolts, these climbers may experience serious injury and death upon falling. As the bolts that are already on rock faces deteriorate and are not allowed to be replaced, climbers will end up trusting these decaying bolts that have a high risk of falling out of the rock, and cause these climbers to fall to their deaths. While there are methods of placing temporary bolts into rocks ("trad" climbing), these methods are highly unsafe with a high risk of failure, and require an extreme amount of experience to operate safely. In fact, I personally know a woman who died from this method's failure. Please keep this growing sport accessible to Americans like you and me.

Some more information:

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.

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.