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Comments: I am glad that the management of climbing anchors in Wilderness Areas is being attended to, but believe that the proposed plan is flawed. Prohibiting fixed anchors poses safety risks, obstructs exploration, and threatens America's climbing legacy. The current plan will likely make climbing less safe and less accessible by restricting climbers' ability to protect themselves when they find inadequate fixed protection on popular routes.

Instead of outlawing fixed protection and creating a lengthy bureaucratic process, it would be far more successful to work with climbers to equip popular routes in an intelligent, safe way that limits climber traffic, accidents and the need for improvised fixed rappel anchors or illegal bolts.

The primary climbing organization in my home state is the Carolina Climbers Coalition, and I believe that the organization and the climbers in North and South Carolina have proven themselves to be excellent partners, managers and generally good citizens in helping to manage and maintain land, and in the sensible and safe use of climbing hardware. While climbers can and do have a significant impact on the areas they visit, we also have a vested interest in stewardship and preservation of wild landscapes. Please revise this plan and work with us to create an effective strategy that climbers can live with.

Fixed anchors are crucial for climbers' safety and are not prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act. Existing climbing policies have allowed and authorized fixed anchors for decades, and following them will better protect Wilderness character and allow for primitive and unconfined climbing.