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Comments: I am writing in full support to the recently released draft policies that would make fixed anchors prohibited on US Wilderness areas. I feel the NPS and USFS should be commended for honoring the mandate of the visionary Wilderness Act. After decades of ignoring this issue, it is more than time that action is taken to improved policy to meet the legal requirements of the Wilderness Act, and to protect the wilderness character of the areas visited and explored by climbers and others.

Fixed anchors are NOT essential for climbers' safety system. The modern climbing ethic initiated in the 1970s is to use temporary removable equipment, and not permanent installations that deface and deform rock.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will actually increase safety. These installations are not regularly maintained for safe use later by unsuspecting climbers and experience severe weathering over time.

Fixed anchors in Wilderness Areas are in fact unsafe practices due to that lack of proper care and maintenance of these permanent installations.

Prohibiting fixed anchors DO NOT obstruct exploration of Wilderness Areas. In fact this policy of prohibiting fixed anchors FACILITATES exploration, by preserving the raw unaltered state of the for providing for a more true wilderness experience.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will NOT impact America's climbing legacy. Much of America's legacy is built around true Wilderness adventures, namely first ascents, without the negative impact of preset, preexisting installation of anchors. These installations demean the experience and undermines achievement and our climbing legacy.

New anchors and other permanent installations should not be allowed to impact the protected cultural and natural resources.