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Comments: Dear whomever this may concern,

As a former NPS employee here are my thoughts and perspectives on this issue.

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.

* 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 history.

If you don't handle this correctly it will also set the stage for more of us keeping areas secret and not sharing with the community or on mountain project new areas to give the growing demand of accessible climbing areas. Established areas will just get overuse and the other problems associated with limited options.

Please leave wilderness climbing alone. We are caretakers and stewards of the land.

Respectfully,

Bill Howard