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Comments: I am writing in response to the proposed policy banning the use of fixed anchors in wilderness locations and the banning of installing new anchors in non-wilderness lands.

The current standards and ethics regarding fixed anchors in the climbing community is to minimize their use where removable gear placements can staley protect the climb. Additionally, the current prohibition on power drilling equipment in wilderness locations already moderates the ability to install it replace anchors in these areas. We should continue to foster cooperation between climbing associations (eg the Access Fund) and Federal officials to ensure we both preserve our lands and we continue our traditions of adventure and recreation as a nation.

The proposal to prohibit new anchors in non-wilderness locations is problematic as it would be impossible to enforce and would lead to climbers having to operate under the radar. This would make it difficult for officials and the community to work together and enforce standards and would almost certainly see a dangerous escalation of folks sabotaging existing safety systems resulting in injuries and deaths.

Please continue our tradition of continued improvements in standards, ethics, and cooperation rather than prohibiting an important national tradition and a source of national pride.

Best Regards,

Ben Ver Steeg