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Comments: \*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 will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

\*Why should federal agencies create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have traditionally 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. Fixed anchor maintenance must be managed to incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of said anchors.

\*Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should 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.

\*Fixed anchors can be installed without power tools, following current guidance for repair and maintenance in wilderness areas. Repair to bridges, steps, and trails is an accepted practice in wilderness. Repair and maintenance of climbing anchors is no different than those procedures; repair and of vertical trails is as essential as that of normal hiking trails.

\*Fixed anchors do not pose a visual detriment to the visitor experience. The anchors are rarely visible to non-climbers.

\*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.