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Comments: I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed policies on climbing anchors within Wilderness areas. As an active participant in the climbing community and a staunch advocate for responsible outdoor recreation, I feel compelled to share my perspective on the potential ramifications of these policies.

Fixed anchors are indispensable for climbers' safety and have been used judiciously for more than half a century without compromising the pristine character of Wilderness areas. Labeling them as prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act seems unjustified. Instead, adhering to existing climbing policies that allow for their thoughtful use can strike a harmonious balance between preserving Wilderness character and facilitating primitive and unconfined climbing experiences.

The proposed nationwide prohibition on Wilderness climbing anchors appears unreasonable and could have unintended consequences. It may impede the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility currently undertaken responsibly by the climbing community. Moreover, an authorization process that restricts critical safety decisions made in the moment poses a potential risk. Prohibiting fixed anchors could obstruct the appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas and, alarmingly, jeopardize America's rich climbing legacy, potentially erasing some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.

I implore you to reconsider these policies, taking into account the collective experience and responsible practices of the climbing community. A balanced approach that preserves Wilderness character while fostering safe and responsible climbing is crucial. Thank you for your attention to this matter.