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Comments: In short, I am AGAINST all bans on permanent climbing anchors.

I am an avid outdoorsman and frequently visit wilderness areas to hike, camp, ski, climb, etc. Climbing is just as important to me as other wilderness pursuits, and does not impact the wilderness environment more than other wilderness endeavors. The spirit and the soul of the wilderness are perhaps captured best when climbing. Why should the steepness of the terrain affect the ability of Americans to enjoy that terrain safely?

Climbing is a wilderness activity that can only be done safely with occasional anchors to allow for safe descent or ascent. Many areas are not amenable to temporary anchors. Anchors have been used for more than a half-century and they are NOT prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act.

Climbing anchors are less visually disturbing and alter the natural environment less than hiking trails, sign posts, campsites, fire rock rings, horses, and other things currently allowed in the wilderness. Most anchors are invisible to anyone who is not rock climbing. They are no different in impact than railings to protect visitors from cliffs and waterfalls, cairns and signs to mark trails, established and semi-established campsites while backpacking, or horse droppings from using a pack animal in the wilderness.

Prohibiting fixed anchors or removing existing anchors will create serious safety issues to climbers AND to the rescue squads who respond (and who will likely be forced to create fixed anchors for safety reasons during a rescue).

Climbing is a legitimate use of wilderness and will be unsafe in most areas without the use of permanent anchors. It would be a travesty make most climbing endeavors illegal in the most beautiful areas of our country.

Please do the right thing. Please allow climbing anchors to continue legally.

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