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Comments: I urge the National Park Service and US Forest Service to maintain the longstanding policy that allows the use of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. The proposed prohibition on fixed anchors overlooks their crucial role in climber safety and the history of responsible climbing practices.

Fixed anchors are not merely installations; they are essential safety features that enable the exploration of complex terrain while minimizing environmental impact. The climbing community has a strong tradition of maintaining these anchors, a practice that enhances safety and reduces the need for resource-intensive rescue operations.

Prohibiting these anchors risks the safety of climbers, hampers access to historic climbing routes, and disregards the bipartisan support for sustainable climbing practices currently under consideration by Congress. I strongly advocate for the continuation of a balanced policy that values both wilderness preservation and the needs of the climbing community.

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.