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Comments: I am writing to strongly oppose any ban on fixed climbing anchors in wilderness areas. I have been exploring wilderness for nearly 40 years and climbing in these areas for more than 20 years. At no point during this time did it every occur to me that fixed anchors are a problem. To the contrary, fixed anchors help minimize impact on cliffs and mountains and reduce the risks of injury associated with climbing. Take, for example, Devil's Lake in Wisconsin, which has a strong "no fixed anchor" policy. As a result, the tops of all bluffs are completely eroded and any trees that do remain are clearly worn from being slung with ropes and nylon webbing.

The rock climbing community certainly has work to do to be better stewards of wilderness. However, imposing a ban on fixed anchors in wilderness will not attain such an end. In fact, it will exacerbate the challenges that wilderness land managers currently face by forcing climbers to use more intrusive means of climbing in these areas.