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Comments: Dear USFS,

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Fixed anchors have been allowed in Wilderness areas for more than half a century and help protect Wilderness character while providing primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. It is unreasonable to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when said anchors have been allowed and managed for decades. If the anchors are prohibited safety issues will arise. Imposing unnecessary obstacles to the maintenance of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas will dis-incentivize safe anchor replacement from the climbing community. Critical safety decisions must often be made in the moment and an authorization process will impede those decisions. Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion and issues 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. Furthermore, prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing history. America holds world class climbing destinations filled with rich history that are threatened by the proposed act. Climbing management policy needs to protect these routes and other existing routes from removal.