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Comments: Prohibiting fixed anchors prevents access to, and reduces the value of, public non-consumable resources within Wilderness areas.

Climbing impacts can be reduced without prohibiting essential safety equipment. Guidance on the installation and use of fixed should be drafted as a joint effort between land agencies and the climbing community. This will improve safety of climbers and reduce the impacts made by unskilled installation or inappropriate location. This guidance should include a clause that allows any anchor that is required to safely execute a rescue.

Prohibiting fixed anchors would unjustly eliminate recreational opportunities on public lands that, when done properly, has low impact on resources, including those used by other visitors. If climbers are creating unacceptable impacts through the use of fixed anchors or other actions, I encourage dialogue between land agencies and the climbing community to establish better practices and education. As climbers, we know that we are a minority in the vast sea of visitors, but we are passionate about the places threatened by the proposal. Our time on the rock is like therapy for many of us. It helps us reduce our stress, clear our heads, and to be better parents, employees, and citizens. The rock is almost like a sacred place of restoration.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

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.