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Comments: I'm writing to express my deep regret regarding the proposed policy changes that would prohibit the use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas.

Not only would a blanket ban on fixed anchors in Wilderness go against decades of historic, allowable use, it would take away an essential component of a climber's safety system. In addition, it would potentially lead to the degradation of natural resources such as forcing climbers to sling natural features like trees and shrubs that struggle to take repetitive use as anchors. Not to mention the unappealing viewshed impacts from colored nylon, dyneema, etc being left behind because there is no way to retrieve those anchor items after a climb.

Please consider other options such as: a permit system to establish new routes to combat overcrowding of climbs in one area, guidance on the type of allowable hardware (colored to match the rock, colored chalk to match the rock, stainless steel, etc) and maintenance or replacement of any hardware, hand drilling of fixed anchors only, or a user friendly reporting system to identify any issues that might arise like nesting raptors, cultural impacts, or the like.

Thank you,

Kevin Starr