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Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed legislation that seeks to prohibit fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are crucial for climbers' safety and have been permitted under existing climbing policies for over half a century without compromising the Wilderness Act. Implementing new guidance to restrict these anchors across the country is unwarranted, as federal agencies have successfully managed and authorized their use for decades. Such a prohibition raises safety concerns by hindering regular maintenance, a responsibility handled by the climbing community. Additionally, it obstructs exploration and jeopardizes America's climbing legacy, putting some of the world's greatest achievements at risk. It is essential to preserve existing climbing routes, allowing climbers the flexibility needed for in-the-moment decisions while ensuring the protection of Wilderness character.

I agree that guidance is necessary to reduce the impact on the wilderness. However, the proposed legislation is not the way to do it.