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Comments: Hello, I am a long-time rock climber and I frequently love the National Parks. One of my favorite parts about the National Parks is its history and long-standing relationship with rock climbing. It's beautiful, rich, and offers incredible opportunities for people to recreate and enjoy the National Parks through an activity that is inherently low-risk and safe.

The policies drafted by the National Park Service to call for all fixed anchors in wilderness illegal until reviewed is a total disruption to the ability to rock climb and recreate in our National Parks. Although there are a myriad of reasons as to why this policy is unjustified, key issues that stand out are related to the safety of rock climbers in wilderness and the legacy that National Parks uphold in rock climbing. I urge you to please continue reading. Fixed anchors are an absolutely necessary piece of equipment to ensure the safety of recreationalists while having minimal impacts to the flora and fauna of the environment. Fixed anchors allow for rock climbers to make in-the-moment decisions to safely lower or relocate while climbing on the wall. Additionally, replacing already-existing fixed anchors ensure that the gear on the wall is safe for climbers to recreate. By creating obstacles towards installing and maintaining fixed anchors, the safety of recreationalists on the wall is detrimental and can lead to heightened accidents in National Parks. With bureaucratic proceedings to determine what is safe or unsafe, it may lead to improperly protected routes due to the decision making of those that are not subject matter experts in the field of climbing.

Rock climbing, with a longstanding tradition of recreation in National Parks, is an activity much enjoyed by those visiting National Parks. Prohibiting fixed anchors will erase the accomplishments that have been made in Yosemite, Joshua Tree, and other popular National Parks that made America well known for its rock climbing. Climbing management policies at the very least need to protect existing routes from removal in order to preserve the history that makes National Parks revered. It is important that National Parks celebrate its past while also ensuring that future heroes and accomplishments can happen. Imagine a world in which The Dawn Wall was never climbed in El Capitan - are we suggesting that these accomplishments should never be embarked on? We must promote safe recreation in the National Parks, and to do so we must find another solution than removing and submitting approvals for fixed anchors. Fixed anchors, which do not ultimately damage the surrounding environment, should not be weaponized. We have to do the right thing to protect recreationalists. Please consider shutting down this proposal and listen to the voices of the climbing community.