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Comments: I am writing to oppose the proposed inclusion of climbing anchors as prohibited "installations" in Wilderness areas.

Climbers have used anchors responsibly for decades. These anchors are barely visible if at all to visitors and have a minimal if any effect on wildlife.

A ban on new and replacement of existing climbing anchors would make recreational climbing - an "appropriate activity" of Wilderness areas according to draft National Park Service guidance - more dangerous by taking climbers' abilities to make decisions in the moment which may be essential to maintain safety while waiting for agency action to determine whether an existing anchor can be replaced. And it would endanger those attempting new routes when new anchors are subject to a lengthy and subjective process under the agency's Minimum Requirements Analysis.

Also, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands will be difficult if not impossible to enforce. It will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers and lead to needless conflict. A better 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.

I am not aware of any significant number of incidents that would justify the proposed restrictions on climbing anchors. Please reject the draconian change in policy concerning climbing anchors and keep climbing and climbers safe.