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Comments: * While climbing, mountaineering, and other related activities should be restricted when their practice and expansion result in unacceptable impacts on wilderness resources or interfere with the experience or safety of other park visitors, they are otherwise a legitimate use of wilderness areas that we are all entitled to enjoy.

* The placement and use of fixed anchors is essential for the climber's safety and does not necessarily impair the future enjoyment of wilderness or violate the Wilderness Act. Current climbing policies and practices have allowed responsible use for many decades while minimizing environmental impact by directing traffic to fixed paths.

* The creation and enforcement of new policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when federal agencies have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors, and while the climbing community has proven to responsibly self-regulate for decades, is unreasonable.

* Safety is paramount for climbers and prohibiting fixed anchors will impose unnecessary obstacles for the safe practice of the activity. The adventure character of backcountry climbing often requires critical safety decisions to be taken at the moment and often not anticipated. This option would be negated by imposing a previous authorization process. Climbers must be allowed to explore Wilderness areas in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when safely navigating complex vertical terrain.

* A new regulation of this nature will also unnecessarily complicate the regular maintenance of existing fixed anchors. Fixed anchors need to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of existing climbing routes. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten the climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's historical climbing achievements.

* Limiting the creation of new climbing routes to non-Wilderness areas is impractical and will lead to confusion and logistical challenges for both land managers and climbers. The climbing management policy for non-Wilderness areas should allow for the establishment of new anchors unless thorough analyses demonstrate that climbing must be restricted to safeguard cultural and natural resources in that particular area.