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Comments: *Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system:

They are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

*It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors: There have been no significant events and there is no evidence that suggests fixed anchors are a problem. There is no reason to change the status quo.

*Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues:

By imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made at the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

*Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas: Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

*Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy:

This could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

*Climbers are a significant portion of the outdoor and environmental protection community:

Most climbers are environmental activists. Preventing climbers from being able to climb outdoors could negatively impact environmental activism. Climbers regularly host trash cleanups and are actively involved in the protection of our national parks.

*Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. 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.