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Comments: In the intricate dance between nature and adventure, the guidance for rock climbing should be a symphony, not a discordant cacophony. Fixed anchors, crucial to the safety of climbers, should be recognized as integral elements rather than obstacles to be prohibited. The Wilderness Act doesn't condemn these anchors, and adhering to established climbing policies that have stood for over half a century ensures the preservation of Wilderness character while facilitating the pursuit of primitive and unconfined climbing experiences. Federal agencies, instead of imposing sweeping bans on fixed anchors, should acknowledge their longstanding role in climbing safety and the climbing community's diligent maintenance efforts.

Prohibiting fixed anchors not only hinders regular maintenance but also jeopardizes critical safety decisions made in the heat of the moment. A balanced approach is needed, managing fixed anchor maintenance to encourage safe replacements and preserve climbing routes. Beyond safety concerns, these proposals obstruct the exploration of Wilderness areas, hindering climbers from making crucial, in-the-moment decisions while navigating challenging terrains. Additionally, by threatening America's climbing legacy and the removal of iconic routes, such policies risk erasing some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policies must evolve to protect and celebrate this rich heritage, allowing climbers to continue scaling new heights while preserving the delicate balance of our natural landscapes.