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Comments: I'd like to submit a comment in opposition to the specifics of the policy.

Fixed anchors are a vital safety system for virtually all types of climbing, including the climbing that is a historic and appropriate way for people to explore and move through wilderness areas.

It needs to be possible for climbers to maintain essential safety systems. Climbers and climbing organizations are willing to put an incredible amount of effort and expertise into creating and maintaining these systems. This takes a lot of time and energy, and I am extremely concerned that creating a burdensome permitting system without dedicating significant resources to it will lead to bad outcomes for people who care about our wilderness areas.

A policy that creates a veto point of a single area manager for resources that are cherished and shared by many Americans seems guaranteed to create future problems. I believe there needs to be a clear process for replacing hardware when or if it becomes unsafe. Climbing has inherent risks, and I want to see a process and resources that ensure climbers will be able to rely on each other in the ways they currently do, and before a situation becomes an emergency.