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Comments: *The U.S. Wilderness Act bans & prohibits installations and structures such as permanent fixed climbing anchors in order to protect the areas' wild character.

*Fixed climbing anchors must not be allowed in Wilderness.

*Agencies do not have a duty to develop Wilderness to provide "opportunities for primitive recreation."

Wilderness, by its very existence, does indeed provide these opportunities-the agencies need only to shield the Wilderness according to the provisions of the U.S. Wilderness Act to safeguard the natural opportunities

*The Wilderness Act's strict prohibitions, including its ban on installations, cannot and should not be overcome simply by a desire to facilitate or enhance any particular form of recreation, and the narrow administrative exception for installations does not extend to the general public in search of ways to create developed recreational activities in Wilderness.

*Climbing devoid of permanent fixed anchors is in general compatible with wilderness preservation. It may be true that less people will climb certain routes in Wilderness without fixed bolts or other permanently-installed protection, natural limits on use is not a negative idea thing when it comes to wilderness defense, particularly with the recent major increase of outdoor recreation uses in Wilderness.

*The agencies' primary duty is to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state, and the Wilderness Act's ban on installations can only be defeated in unusual administrative circumstances where the installation is required to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state.

*For those climbers seeking developed climbing opportunities, there are sufficient permanently bolted climbs, well outside of Wilderness for these enthusiasts to use.

*Wilderness is, indeed an endangered landscape. Less than 3 percent of land in the Lower 48 is protected as Wilderness, and said Wild places are under threat, including that from rapidly escalating human recreation pressures.

Any specific proposals for permanent fixed anchor installations in Wilderness must be subjected to

*public notice

and

*an opportunity for public comment

pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.