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Comments: The idea to consider fixed anchors for climbing as an "installation" is silly at best. Installations as they are commonly understood are large and obvious structures that alter everyone's experience of an area. Where as anchors are often difficult to find even when one is searching them out with reference photos as a guide (speaking from experience looking for established lines to climb). The idea that the same process for installing an outhouse should be applied to installing a fixed anchor is to fundamentally misunderstand the environmental impact of the two things. To ever consider them to be in a comparable category is asinine.

Removing fixed anchors, requiring overly bureaucratic processes, or preventing the replacement will cause dangerous situations for climbers. There is already a requirement that bolts be hand drilled which is a natural barrier to installing too many anchors or putting them in the wrong spot. Bailing or descending on old worn out anchors that could not be replaced or using natural anchors will cause more damage to the wilderness and be a danger to climbers. This in turn will cause a greater burden on land managers when situations that could have otherwise been avoided by allowing climbers to decide in the moment their best options for safe descents become rescues.

Climbers have been safely recreating and deciding on when and how fixed anchors should be placed for longer than the Wilderness Act has existed. They've been allowed to place anchors where needed and disallowing this will result in more to the environment. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal. 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.

Wilderness climbing anchors across the country have been allowed, managed, and authorized for decades and this policy is a complete reversal of that standing. I ask that you do not adopt it.