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Comments: The new policies would classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" in Wilderness areas. This new classification would apply to both new and existing anchors. This would threaten the existence of fixed protection on routes that have been enjoyed by climbers for decades, and obstructs climbers' ability to replace bolts when they become unsafe.

This creates not only safety concerns but also leads to resource degradation as more climbers seek out natural features like trees for anchoring in the absence of reliable anchors that are typically placed well away from vegetation features in clean sections of rock.

The ASCA does not oppose guidance on fixed anchor placement in wilderness areas, but these NPS and FS directives are unreasonable. They are unenforceable, will create more problems than they solve, will deeply impact safety for climbers, and will accelerate impacts on wilderness resources, not reduce them.