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Comments: These proposals are draconian and more importantly, create greater hazard and higher risk for climbers. There is no basis for this move, in fact, long precedent supports the use of fixed anchors in wilderness. Well placed and painted/camouflaged bolts are the best option as they last the longest, have the highest strength, are very hard to see from a distance, the list goes on. Efforts should be made to reduce the use of slings around rocks and trees, and bolts help this reduction. Pitons still have a place in wilderness climbs, as well. Climbers need to be able to make in the moment decisions about the placement of fixed anchors for safety and security purposes.

Creating an onerous system of bureaucracy will only slow and stop the replacement of existing anchors that need updating to modern stainless steel. Preventing this anchor maintenance only serves to harm a portion of the public that has long enjoyed the mountains and wilderness, well before the enactment of the Wilderness Act. Please do not adopt these fixed anchor proposals.