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Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential part of the climbing system and do not negatively impact one's wilderness experience. In fact, there will be serious safety issues if fixed anchors are prohibited. Fixed anchors have been allowed in National Forest/wilderness areas for decades and are often monitored/maintained by federal agencies. Prohibiting and/or removing fixed anchors also threatens climbing's rich history, which is often an integral part of the narrative of how certain areas have been enjoyed and explored by humans. Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. 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.