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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes banning fixed climbing anchors in wilderness areas. Implementing this ban is a terrible idea for a whole host of reasons, several of which I will outline below.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climber's safety equipment. This should go without saying but removing safety equipment will decrease safety and result in more injuries and even deaths. People are still going to climb, they're just going to do it in a more dangerous way. This will increase the necessary rescues that will happen every year, leading to an overall degradation of the wilderness area that this proposed change is so ham-handedly trying to protect.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of wilderness areas. Land management should allow climbers to explore the wilderness in a manner that permits quick-decision making while allowing for ample safety.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will degrade the rich history of climbing. Removing these anchors will erase some of our most important recreational history.

Prohibiting anchors will actually increase the amount of degradation of these natural spaces. In addition to the increase in rescues as mentioned above, prohibiting anchors will force climbers who could once have repelled to the ground to have to hike back to the base of the climb, often bushwhacking through undesignated trails. Preventing bolts will cause an explosion of off-trail hiking and lead to erosion and further damage to the natural environment.

Best regards,

Theo Garrett