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Comments: I urge you to abandon this ill-conceived, unnecessary and harmful proposal.

It is not clear what actual problems this directive would solve. It hinges on a bureaucratic interpretation of the word "installation", and not on the demonstrated intent of the Wilderness Act's authors.

In the past decade and more, I have climbed countless incredible routes deep in wilderness areas, often relying on occasional fixed anchors for the safety of myself and my partner. The American climbing community already overwhelmingly seeks to minimize its impact in wilderness and backcountry areas. Any unnecessary bolts or other fixed gear are very rare indeed, and swiftly removed by the community.

The timely replacement and maintenance of existing fixed anchors is important to public safety. There have already been too many tragic accidents in wilderness areas such as the Sierra, the Wind River Range and the North Cascades due to old, poor-quality fixed gear failing on climbers. Impeding the replacement of existing fixed anchors won't change existing wilderness character, but it will cost lives.

Land managers across the country are already underfunded, understaffed, and face many far more pressing issues. It is unfair and senseless to require them to evaluate or permit individual routes and fixed anchors, knowing that their inaction could lead to unnecessary accidents or deaths.