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Comments: Please consider the use of fixed anchors for climbing as part of your policy plans in wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act. Climbing anchors are critical to climbing safety and the ability to maintain and replace aging anchors is imperative to safety. Climbing anchors should not be considered "installations" and their minimal impact should be allowed as it has been for the many years since the Wilderness Act has been adopted.

It is unreasonable for the USFS to create new policies that prohibit climbing anchors that have been allowed, managed and authorized for decades. Climbing is a low-impact use of Wilderness areas and should be considered a reasonable and protected use of public lands.

Prohibiting fixed anchors is an unnecessary reaction to protecting Wilderness areas as climbers cherish these areas and have a long history of working with land managers and practicing leave-no-trace actions.

It would be disservice to the public if the nation's greatest climbing routes were erased, discontinued and unretrievable. Climbing management policy should focus on protecting established and historical routes, supporting climber safety, and allowing climbers to continue to enjoy wilderness areas they have loved for many years.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands would be difficult to enforce and cause 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.