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Comments: I have been a rock climber for 23 years, and it has taken me all over the country and world. While most of the climbing I do is not on wilderness lands, certainly some of the most memorable experiences I have had were.

Fixed anchors, including bolts, are an essential piece of climbers' safety system. Especially in the wilderness, where climbers are generally quite removed from communication and rescue, the presence of such fixtures (especially on established routes) is documented in guidebooks and counted upon when making preparations and ascents. They are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. All bolts require regular inspection, and when appropriate, replacement lest they fail hazardously under load. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.