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Comments: I strongly oppose the prohibition of fixed anchors in wilderness areas. As a climber, and outdoor educator, and someone who has spent years teaching and exploring in wilderness areas, I have significant concerns that this ban will create safety issues and increase the risk for all climbers.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and 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

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. 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

Additionally, 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.

Climbing has a rich history in the American west, and is a source of joy, recreation, and incredible wilderness exploration for those that engage in this activity. Creating unrealistic management strategies will only serve to create more chaos, less safe practices and increased risk to individuals, and restricted access to American citizens.

Thank you for taking these points into consideration