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Comments: The United States has incredible and precious Wilderness areas, and is an epicenter of rock climbing in the world. I am a rock climber, a Nature lover, and I firmly believe that Wilderness and climbing-and the fixed anchors essential for climbers' safety-can coexist.

## Please note:

- 1. Fixed anchors are crucial for climbers' safety, align with the Wilderness Act's climbing policies, and help preserve the Wilderness's natural state while supporting climbing.
- 2. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to suddenly ban Wilderness climbing anchors given their long-standing acceptance and regulation of these anchors.
- 3. Banning fixed anchors compromises safety by hindering their essential maintenance, a task typically managed by climbers, and could lead to the loss of climbing routes.
- 4. Prohibiting fixed anchors limits exploration in Wilderness areas, as climbers need the flexibility to make instant decisions in complex terrains.
- 5. A ban on fixed anchors risks tragically diminishing America's unique climbing heritage and could lead to the removal of historically significant climbing route.
- 6. Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and confusing. Climbing policies on non-Wilderness lands should allow new anchors unless resource protection specifically demands closure.