Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 3:02:39 AM
First name: Simon
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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.