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Comments: Climbing has been an important path to explore Americas wilderness areas for more than 50 years. Fixed anchors are essential part of the safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow for judicious use of fixed anchors will do more to protect Wilderness character.

Restricting the use of fixed anchors creates unnecessary safety issues. This will impose obstacles to the regular maintenance of 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. 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.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Americas wilderness areas. It will threaten Americas rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.