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Comments: Hello,

I strongly disagree with the current treatment of fixed climbing anchors drafted in this policy for a few reasons:

1.Lack of historical precedent: For centuries, climbers have used fixed anchors to navigate and explore the wilderness and there has never once been a problem with regard to management. Climbers have been tasteful and limited in their use of fixed wilderness areas, with historic track records of following safe climbing practices and current wilderness regulations like no use of electric drills. Climbers largely self-police in this regard, and excessive bolting, poor and unsafe hardware, and unnecessary litter are uniformly frowned upon in the wilderness climbing community.

2.Wilderness exploration, especially among peaks and rocky walls, is next-to-impossible without the use of fixed anchors. This exploration component is an essential use of wilderness under the Wilderness and should be protected as such. Without fixed installations, descending from a large majority of wilderness exploration climbs is extremely unsafe, even impossible.

3.Fixed anchors are key to keeping climbers safe in wilderness areas. First, these fixed anchors allow climbers to safely descend from peaks/walls in a timely manner, especially when storms are imminent or injuries are sustained from a climbing fall. Second, protection bolts provide a means of safety when other removable protection is not available. Without these bolts (or allowing for the safe updating of existing anchors without an MRA), the frequency and severity of climbing accidents in wilderness areas will increase. Not only does this endanger climbers, but this will also unnecessarily endanger search and rescue personnel.

4.From a budget perspective, it seems unlikely that land managers have sufficient funds to conduct the extensive, lengthy, and costly process of reviewing and approving MRA's. There are a large number of more pressing park and land management issues such as off trail use, improper human waste disposal, drone use, off road driving, etc. that cause a far larger environmental and anti-wilderness impact than a lone and low-profile fixed anchor. It seems asinine for land managers to accept additional bureaucracy into their land management process when other issues are a far higher priority.

5.From an economics perspective, wilderness areas draw climber tourism, which supports a number of industries. Despite, economic impacts not being an explicit concern in the Wilderness Act, many communities rely on outdoor recreation tourism for jobs and income. Without fixed anchors or with extremely degraded and unsafe fixed anchors, climbing tourism to an area will fall. This decrease in tourism will result in substantial economic losses for core communities based around outdoor recreation tourism.