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Comments: As a climber and guide, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in all wilderness and especially North Cascades National Park remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in designated wilderness areas.

North Cascades National Park, where I work, has a strong climbing ethic dating to before the wilderness act. I believe that fixed anchors in wilderness areas support an environment where guiding is safe and reasonable for the clients and the guides. I also believe that restricting these anchors will have direct safety implications on those parties with negative impacts on the industry.

Thanks,

Aaron Richards