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Comments: I am writing to voice my opinion on the proposal of banning fixed anchors in wilderness areas.

Overall, I believe that the proposal to review every piece of fixed protection will essentially become an outright ban. I also believe that an outright ban is not the best solution to preserving our wilderness areas. I believe this for several reasons

1. A well bolted route makes has very little impact on the area, both to the rock itself and the enjoyment of visitors who are not climbing. How many of the annual visitors to the Yosemite valley see bolts on El Capitan?
2. The wilderness act states it's purpose is to be "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness". Fixed anchors do not take away from any of those points. In fact, adding fixed anchors allows visitors to safely use and enjoy the wilderness areas.

On top of that, I believe the ban has several other issues

1. The amount of effort to review all fixed anchors is overly difficult and will require an incredible amount of effort.
2. It is certainly the case that someone will eventually attempt to climb a route where fixed anchors have been removed. Depending on the circumstance this can be very dangerous and will lead to accidents and potentially even deaths.
3. While many will follow the ban, there will be others who won't. Overall, I believe this will create a rift between rangers and certain climbers whereas we should all be working together to protect the places that we love.

I do however believe that we need to protect wilderness areas. In general, most climbers would also agree. I believe that climbers and rangers should work together within their local communities to come to the correct conclusion for policies regarding fixed protection in their community. Overall I believe that that will lead to better outcomes for everyone involved than what is essentially a complete ban on bolting in wilderness areas.