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Comments: As an avid climber of all forms and American Alpine Clubs award winner in 2016, I wish to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed prohibition of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas.

As perfectly stated by my friend, climbing partner and current President of the American Alpine Club itself:

"Fixed anchors are not only integral to climbers' safety systems but have been responsibly utilized for over half a century in accordance with established climbing policies. Creating new guidance to restrict their usage nationwide is both unreasonable and threatens the very essence of responsible Wilderness climbing.

This proposal raises significant issues, from impeding critical safety decisions to jeopardizing the regular maintenance of fixed anchors-essential responsibilities shouldered by the climbing community.

The proposed prohibition may inadvertently compromise safety and the preservation of climbing routes, hindering the unique in-the-moment decisions required in navigating challenging vertical terrain. Furthermore, restricting fixed anchors obstructs the appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas, limiting the ability of climbers to engage with these environments in a manner that permits dynamic decision-making during complex ascents.

I implore you to reconsider this proposal. Let us collaborate on a climbing management policy that upholds the delicate balance between protecting Wilderness character and preserving America's rich climbing legacy. Your attention to this matter is crucial, and I appreciate your consideration"

Please, reconsider and rework this bill, fixed anchor prohibition is not the solution to wilderness management and protection. Look to the High Sierra as an example where the climbing history and any permanent anchor protection has not affected the wilderness characteristic of the region.

Thank you

David Allfrey