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Comments: I feel incredibly grateful for the wilderness areas that we protect. These areas provide incredible opportunities for recreation, research, and are inherently valuable outside of their positive impacts on humans. I also love climbing. I strongly believe that safe, sustainable climbing in wilderness areas is possible with sensible management and these two concepts are compatible. We can have safe climbing in wilderness areas. Many of these proposed policies are not sensible management, they seem more like reactive bans from people who have not bothered trying to understand the issue.

Fixed anchors are essential for safe climbing. Trying to limit climbers' abilities to climb safely puts their lives at risk. SAR missions are expensive and far more disruptive. Removing peoples abilities to enjoy the wilderness safely isn't going to stop people going out, it's going to make it more dangerous. I have never heard anyone complain that unsightly fixed anchors ruined their wilderness experience. I have no idea why you would focus on climbing anchors given the huge amounts of risks our outdoors are facing on other fronts.

Climbers don't get much federal grant money or support compared to other outdoor recreation, and climbing has huge economic impacts in many more rural communities near me. Climbers have put lots of work and money into developing and caring for craigs, destroying this work, history, and craft in these areas. Switching policies to destroy our sport would hurt these areas, and seems a particularly unfair reversal given how much individuals have done using their own time and money to create these amazing areas for the public.

Many of the "wilderness" areas near me that I love climbing in are in sight of highways. I have no idea how those boundaries got drawn, but trying to remove safe climbing in areas for the sake of preserving the 'purity of the wilderness' is laughable. A more nuanced approach is needed, and routes that provide hundreds of people with joy and a chance to recreate in their backyards need to be protected.

I think we can have federal policy that protects the wilderness while acknowledging that many people enjoy wilderness through climbing. This policy seems an unfair and poorly thought out attack on climbers.