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Comments: Hello. I live on Colorado's Front Range and have grown up climbing all around the American West. As a Junior in High School, I care very much about preserving these lands so they remain pristine and wild through my lifetime and into the next. Bolted Anchors in Wilderness Areas are vital for a number of reasons: 1) safety; climbers of all abilities rely on fixed gear such as anchors to safely ascend and descend from routes all around the US. 2) public lands; Our Wilderness is a place that is meant to be both protected for future generation and enjoyed by current ones, and climbers form a major use group in these areas. These policy changes would push climbers out. 3) stewards; out of the many use groups in wilderness areas, climbers have long been some of the most environmentally conscious, careful to use sustainable trails and practices to keep routes and areas open for future generations. 4) Climbing has long been a fixture of the American outdoor community, and our climbing history is long and rich. These changes would cut off this long history, and seem rather unfounded after decades of the climbing community being allowed to explore and enjoy American Public Lands.

National Parks and Wilderness Areas are undeniably being impacted by heavy use, and policy changes ARE necessary to help protect them. The best way to protect them is not cutting out entire use groups, especially ones that have historically been less destructive, but working to find compromises that protect natural resources while still allowing users to enjoy these areas to the fullest. In many cases, seasonal closures have helped to protect wildlife, volunteer trail work has helped to prevent erosion, and many other policies can help to mitigate impact without preventing people from enjoying these lands. Many National parks and wildernesses have implemented permit systems and reservations which while frustrating to deal with, can help to prevent overuse of popular areas. Educating guests about how to sustainably use these lands (ie Leave No Trace practices) is going to have far more impact than blocking the users who for the most part already understand and implement wilderness travel guidelines. There are steps that need to be taken to protect these beloved lands, but these proposed policies do not address the problem efficiently or reasonably. Organizations such as the American Alpine Club, Access Fund, Colorado 14er Initiative, and numerous others are committed to protecting the lands the climbing community uses. Working with these organization to find resolutions that protect Wilderness Areas but leave the door open for careful and conscious use is the best path forwards. We all love these lands and want to see them flourish. Let us find a solution together, but these proposed policies restricting fixed anchors are not the way to do it.