Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 2:27:57 PM First name: Vitor Last name: Chies Organization:

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Comments: Firstly, fixed anchors are crucial safety equipment. Current policies allowing their judicious use have effectively protected wilderness character while enabling climbing for over 50 years. A nationwide ban on such anchors is considered unreasonable given their long-standing acceptance and existing management practices. Banning them also raises safety concerns. Regular maintenance of these anchors is essential, and climbers shouldn't be burdened with lengthy authorization processes hindering crucial safety decisions made in the moment. Maintenance programs should encourage safe replacements, not dismantle existing routes. Furthermore, a ban hinders proper exploration of wilderness areas. Climbing often requires spontaneous decisions while navigating complex terrain, and climbers need this freedom. Finally, a ban on fixed anchors threatens America's rich climbing legacy. These anchors mark historical achievements, and climbing management policies should protect existing routes from potential removal. In conclusion, I advocate for continuing existing policies around fixed anchor use in wilderness areas. I believe this approach safeguards both wilderness character and climber safety, while promoting exploration and preserving historical climbing endeavors.