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Comments: As a lifetime climber who has enjoyed the wonderful and unique areas that are offered in the United States, it is disheartening to see policies being proposed that will limit future generation's safe access to these same resources. In my experience, climbers are wonderful stewards of our natural resources, and our impacts are far less extensive than nearly all other usergroups. The systems of self-management that have been in place for decades have been highly effective at limiting impacts, and additional controls will do nothing except complicate the process, while discouraging users from maintaining the safe and effective permanent protection that has been in place for years. While I understand that this policy is not technically a ban on fixed anchors, it is a "guilty until proven innocent" process which would be highly labor-intensive to implement and therefore, slow, cumbersome, and ineffectual. Where are the knowledgeable employees that would be able to enforce this policy for the thousands of classic routes that exist in this country?? If they exist, I haven't seen them...

The fact that this policy would make fixed protection that is vital to continued access to routes that have been climbed safely for more than half a century is crazy to me. The climbing feats of former generations define the history of our national parks, national forests, and wilderness areas. I can't believe we are even discussing a policy that would erase these accomplishments, and prevent future generations from achieving similar things. Make no mistake, this policy will sideline the future of climbing in the United States. Fixed protection that is installed at the discretion of climbers (not official) during is vital to the continued pursuit of the sport. During ground-up adventurous ascents, climbers will never be able to accurately forecast the type, quantity, and location of permanent anchors, so it will not be possible to apply for a permit or approval prior to anchor installation. This would be like asking a surfer to apply for a permit for a certain time and height of wave. The unknown is a part of the activity, and cannot be eliminated without barring future participation.

Permanent fixed anchors are a component of climbing that actually limit impact to a large degree. Without fixed anchors, climbers are forced to use natural protection for both ascents, and more concerningly, descents. This means increased wear and tear on trees, bushes, and other naturally existing features. Additionally, and drastically increases the danger of climbing. Fixed climbing anchors prevent accidents, and allow climbers to safely practice and hone our craft. In a time where our country is actively pushing for equal participation and removal of gatekeeping, I can't understand why we are trying to install additional gates that will discourage participation and engagement in outdoor activities. We already have a "gate" that is sufficient to limit excessive permanent anchor installation, and that is the ban on power drills. That rule alone has done a ton to ensure that excessive installation of permanent anchors is limited. Anyone who has tried to drill a hole in hard rock with a hand drill understands what I'm talking about. You aren't going to install excessive number of bolts when each one requires an hour of hard effort.

When we look back in 50 years, do we really want to be the generation that put an end to a long and storied history of climbing adventures in the US? Let's continue to allow the intrepid group of Americans that inspire us with their achievements practice their craft, not ban it behind a wall of red tape.