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Comments: I am writing to express my standpoint on fixed anchors and bolts in National Parks and Wilderness Areas.

Firstly the Wilderness act was created long after the widespread use of fixed equipment for climbing and descending purposes of climbers. The original proposal for the wilderness act contained within it exceptions specifically to allow the continued use of these essential safety precautions. The population of wilderness and national parks visitors is already comprised of many rock climbers and the percentage is only rising. The use of fixed anchors for safely descending routes is imperative for protecting Americas outdoor recreation population and reducing the strain on search and rescue resources.

I am an environmentalist and care deeply about protecting natural spaces in the USA and the world. The use of fixed protection does not detract in any way from an average park enthusiast's experience in a wilderness space of national park, and in fact has contributed greatly to people's enjoyment of these places, climbers and otherwise.

Furthermore the regulation of bolting practices will be extremely expensive and impractical for national parks and wilderness area management. Climbers are the only ones who understand the nuances of bolting technique and must be relied upon to make routes safe, aesthetically pleasing and logistically sound. The Climbing Community already regulates the use of frivolous fixed equipment and will continue to respect the parks, routes, rocks and trails of outdoor spaces. We must keep the regulation of type, frequency and location for fixed equipment in the hands of the climbers who know how to do it properly and with minimal impact to the rock and routes.

Thank you for reading. Please continue to allow fixed equipment to be placed for climb so that climbers with or without experience can be safe and our sport can grow the population of people who care about cleaning up and leave no trace practices in parks.

David.