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Comments: I have been rock climbing for over 40 years. Rock climbing outside, in wilderness areas and national parks, truly is a way of life for me and my children. Rock climbing is a means to commune with nature, appreciate the wild lands of our country, protect our wilderness, spread awareness of judicious use of our wilderness areas, connect with nature, and spread the importance of caring for these wild places. In my experiences, rock climbers are stewards of the land they climb on and are environmentally aware and active. One of the things that makes climbing so desirable is the ability to connect with nature.

Over the years, most of the climbers I know are very concerned that the wild areas we share are cared for, kept clean, and minimally damaged. Climbers help with sustainable trail building, protecting plant life, working with biologists to allow birds and various species time and space to live with as little impact as possible on their lifestyles, breeding requirements and natural habitats.

Existing climbing policies will continue to protect wilderness areas, and maintain a healthy dialogue between climbers and federal agencies. Fixed anchors are essential to keeping climbers safe and actual climbers have the expertise to determine appropriate placement of fixed anchors to best keep climbers safe. Bolts and anchors are not "installations" and should not be treated as such. Banning bolts and anchors will create safety issues for climbers. Government agencies do not have the manpower, nor the time or expertise, to authorize every bolt placement or replacement or removal.

Federal agencies have allowed, managed and authorized fixed anchors for years, and it is unreasonable to step in and prohibit wilderness climbing anchors. Climbers have utilized public wilderness lands for decades and have a right to recreate in wild areas.

Do not threaten America's climbing by banning fixed anchors. Protect our climbing achievements and legacies for future generations. Continue to allow, manage, and authorize fixed anchors as we have done for decades.