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Title:

Comments: Preventing the use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas would be an absolute and utter detriment to the lives of thousands of climbers across the US. This legislation demonstrates a clear misunderstanding of the low impact nature of fixed anchors and the critical evolution they have played in enabling low impact recreation such as climbing to advance safely into the 21st century. This prohibition would be a return to the dark ages and promote unsanctioned bolting practices that would be poorly regulated and overseen. Current orgs such as the ASCA and local climbing coalitions ensure that bolting is done sustainably, and safely, safeguarding our natural resources and the health and safety of climbers. Further, fixed anchors are exceedingly low impact, unrecognizable from a distance and leave an extremely minimal impact considering the disproportionate boon to climber safety. A removal of fixed anchors would need to be associated with increased NPS and USFS funding for SAR, EVAC and body removal, as an elimination of fixed anchors will pose grave dangers to wild land users across the nation. Fixed anchors have been intimately utilized as far back as climbing has been a recreational pursuit in the early 1900s. These anchors are merely safer and less damaging to the rock now. Please protect the right to climbing safely and the freedom of the hills by stopping the fixed anchor prohibition in our wild lands.