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Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers safety system. If you chose to prohibit fixed anchors, you are effectively prohibiting climbing. Climbing has been a valid way to experience and celebrate Wilderness for years, and by prohibiting climbing you would be seriously limiting and restricting peoples enjoyment, and engagement with Wilderness. In order for people to really care about Wilderness, they need to be able to engage with it, in a personal way. It's been proven over the years that climbers - through the way we engage with Wilderness - come to truly care about it. This is why climbers are some of the most dedicated conservationists and environmental activists, and have always shown deep commitment to taking care of the areas we climb in!

Climbers have shown over the years that we have the ability and understanding to make our own decisions around the use of fixed anchors. We have done an extremely careful job of managing our own fixed anchor use. Having a system in which people who are not climbers, dictate the use of fixed anchors, is a serious safety issue. Imposing obstacles to the maintenance of fixed anchors is also a serious safety issue. The maintenance of fixed anchors is important work, that climbers have managed admirably over the years. We need the freedom to continue to manage this work in order for rock climbing to continue to be as safe as possible. In addition, we need the freedom to make in the moment decisions. Climbing is complex, and at times the safest decision will be made based on understanding the components of a specific situation and making a decision based around that situation.

As climbers we have shown again and again our dedication to, and love for Wilderness. We show up, clean up after ourselves and other user groups, take time to educate ourselves and other user groups, and advocate on a national level for conservation. The new policies around fixed anchors could result in an end to climbing in places with long histories of inspiring climbing achievements. We care about wilderness, please consider our voices.