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Comments: I am not a climber. I am a third generation hiker and backpacker whose family has enjoyed the national parks and forest wilderness areas for close to a century. For me, the unspoiled expanse of the Sierra Nevada provides a deep sense of peace and communion with our wild spaces and appreciation for our unique resources. My favorite backpacking trip was with the Sierra Club on an outing to Humphreys Basin and a big part of the experience was learning about the history of the land and activating local advocacy to conserve it.

I am writing today because I believe that my fellow wilderness community of climbers need my voice. They are one of the groups that has most inspired me to appreciate our national parks, forests and wilderness areas. Their feats seem to me superhuman. And it is clear that there is a deep seated history of dedication to balance their activities with conservation of the land. Some of our early founders of National Parks and our wilderness areas where notorious climbers - and at the time used methods and techniques that were much more permanent and harmful to the land than those used today. However, their principles are carried forward and as a community we learn and adapt.

I sincerely believe that fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Thank you.