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Comments: Fixed anchors have been a part of climbing routes within the wilderness context for many decades. Changing this now will not prevent degradation of the wilderness resource. Climbers as stewards have already been workin hard to preserve the integrity of wilderness areas, and will continue to do so in order to maintain solid relationships with land managers and to maintain the pristine nature of our natural resources.

The routes that would be affected in this decision are pieces of American treasure and history, representing huge achievements in American climbing, adventure and outdoorship, and as such should be preserved in a safe and responsible way to allow future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Wilderness stewardship and preservation of the wilderness resource are undoubtedly issues of paramount importance, but the climbing community has already proved that it will step up to the task of preserving and stewarding these pieces of the wilderness landscape in order to preserve their integrity, and ensure that they can be safely enjoyed by climbers as well as other user groups, and most importantly the wildlife within the wilderness areas in question.

It may seem a shame at times that holes have been drilled in some of these features. However our impacts on millimeters of stone pales in comparison to the geologic formations that created these faces, and that will eventually destroy them. This small damage has already been done, and I believe that in allowing climbers to maintain and steward this resource, that we are creating more ways for people to enjoy the wilderness, and to expanding the number of people who would stand up and advocate for the preservation of scenic beauty, solitude, outdoor recreation and the character of our wildernesses themselves.