Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:14:09 AM First name: Stephen Last name: Gomez Organization: Title:

Comments: As a regular wilderness advocate, trail worker, and general steward of all things outdoor I am strongly opposed to the proposed wilderness anchor ban. Climbing and climbers as a user group are generally environmentally conscious and take care of the land. Climbing impact is minor compared to other user groups such as equestrian, ATV and even general tourists visiting our parks. Events like the Yosemite Facelift as well as other crag cleanup projects are examples of climbers coming together to keep our parks clean.

Removing fixed anchors can also create potential safety issues as fixed anchors are often vital to ascend and descend these climbing routes safely. People may die or require rescue as a result of their removal. Climbing has a deep history in our parks and mountains. Many of the routes predate the wilderness act. Please come up with a better solution to whatever problem you think you're fixing with this ban. Collaboration with the climbing community is the first step.