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Comments: I have been climbing and hiking in the North Cascades since before climbing became popular. There was a time when the water was guaranteed to be clean and solitude was a certainty.

I fully support the desire to preserve the wilderness primarily for its own sake, secondarily for the sake of our enjoyment.

The impact of fixed equipment on the environment is significantly less than the impact of trail creation, maintenance, and use. Fixed gear as it is used today is rarely seen except by climbers, and often we have trouble finding them!! Fixed gear as it is used today does not damage the environment. Quite the contrary, it allows for the safe and clean and unobtrusive use of terrain that would otherwise require significant alteration.

Removal and prohibition of fixed anchors will have virtually no impact on the quality of the environment you are trying to preserve.

Thanks, Ed Schwartz