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Comments: Hello, thank you for taking the time to hear all of these comments from the thousands of concerned parties. Whoever is reading this, I really appreciate you and your hard work.

My simple comment, as someone who frequently benefits from the US climbing scene, your amazing, beautiful and varied wildernesses, and a frequent contributor to the US parks economy, is this:

The ability to access outdoor areas for use in a variety of manners is essential to sustaining wilderness areas. There are so many more people, sports, activities, and demographics who access these areas than just climbers. Each in their small way need to be able to access these wildernesses safely - safe for the people AND for the environment. Climbers have a long history of being at the absolute forefront of sustainable access and proper care of our wilderness areas. Partnership is the way to move forward, not polarisation. Regulations are necessary, designating climbing areas is a fair compromise, removing all ability to safely access a sport is not the answer.

I want you to imagine if it was decided that all gasoline boating in freshwater lakes in the US was to be banned. Does gasoline cause damage to our lakes? Yes. Does engine noise and vibration disrupt fishing for kayakers etc? Yes. Do leisure craft cause erosion to delicate shorelines? Yes. Should we ban it entirely? No, of course not, because it is a legitimate way that a huge sector accesses these amazing wildernesses and enjoys them. Or imagine if we said no more cross country skiing because creating pathways through woods is a visible scar on pristine wilderness. Pathways are absolutely scar that cuts through otherwise unmarked woodlands. They are also a completely worthwhile compromise: damaging the woodlands in that very small way makes access possible, and keeps people ON the path so they do not create their own paths and damage wildernesses further.

Climbing does so much less damage to the environment than most other sports, activities, and ways people access these areas. In fact most climbers are a positive influence: removing garbage, advocating for forestry, spending their own money to make access safer while not compromising wilderness.

If you care about your Wilderness Areas removing climbing anchors is not the answer. Finding ways for everyone to access in the way that gives them life is the answer.