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Comments: Hello to anyone that may be reading this, I just wanted to throw a potential two cents into a comment. I have lived and loved climbing for a while now. However, I will absolutely admit that I am certainly part of the recent boom the climbing scene has undergone. Numbers that have historically never been seen are now commonplace at popular crag, and thus wilderness areas throughout the US. I wholeheartedly agree that our wilderness should be protected and preserved, more so than it is currently. However I feel like I must speak up to say that the currently proposed regulations are not the way to do so. Fixed anchors and protection in certain wilderness areas are necessary for any climbing to occur. I myself have used many, in some of my favorite spots to recreate (the red, Pisgah national forest, Linville gorge to name a few). Outlawing them or requiring official inspections or red tape will only exacerbate potential usage issues, by forcing red tape over an issue that must be addressed through another method. I agree that perhaps legislation is required, or some formal enactment to prevent irresponsible overuse. I just think this is currently an ill fated endeavor that will kill a vital outdoor recreation practice so many hold dear to their hearts.

I'd also like to offer another perspective. I have worked as a professional climbing guide for a few organizations, in a few areas throughout the US. I am so grateful to have been able to help people experience the benefits rock climbing can provide. Both literally and figuratively, climbing over a challenging route can change someone's life. I've worked with adults and children, also specifically children with learning disability diagnoses. I've seen first hand what climbing can do. Without the fixed protection in some of these areas, guiding groups such as these would not be possible for a lot of organizations. I have made many different trad anchors for many different groups, but having the fixed hardware just some of the logistics much more feasible.

Regardless, I hope that a solution best for all can be reached. I believe these potential regulations have garnered many reactionary responses from social media crowds who may not have read through them all the way. Anyone reading this may know that, based on some of the comments they receive. Just want to say we appreciate our public lands and the ability to recreate on them immensely. I hope that if legislation comes to be, it can be achieved in a manner best for all parties involved,