

Dear USFS,

I'm an avid climber and mountaineer. I have climbed in Denali National Park, and many other great national parks and public lands in Colorado and Utah. I was greatly disappointed to learn of the new policy that could ban fixed anchors such as bolts, pitons, slings, snow anchors/pickets, pitons, and other safety related anchors.

It is imperative to the sport of climbing and mountaineering withing public lands, both state and federal, that use of these anchoring systems is maintained. Without these systems safe climbing practices would be almost impossible, furthermore the multitude of historic climbing and alpine routes would be rendered unclimbable.

These anchoring systems and routes have been in place for many decades and the original climbers that established them are an integral part of these sacred places and enrich the history of our public lands. The climbers that established these routes have left an important legacy for all future generations and without the ability to utilize these fixed anchors the entire sport of climbing and mountaineering will be severely impacted. A ban of fixed anchors in effect will strip the public having access to these climbing areas.

Perhaps there are solutions that impose some sort of review process of implementing new fixed anchors based on factors such as safety, proximity to existing routes, type of hardware used, specific location used, etc. When I climbed in Denali NP my partner and I were thankful that there were fixed anchors available to use to ensure our safety on our descent. The visual impacts are extremely minimal unless you are the individual using the fixed hardware.

If there is a ban on fixed anchors, we will see an increase of climbing accidents as climbers rely on these systems to climb. One would not remove the guard rails along the edges of the Black Canyon because of visual impacts- it's very similar.

Please do not destroy the legacy of climbing in our great public lands and keep all climbing routes accessible and safe for all!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Kevin Dunnett, Snowmass Village, Colorado