

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/14/2024 10:31:48 PM

First name: Mark

Last name: Rolofson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The US Forest should not regulate the use of fixed anchors in or outside of wilderness. Most wilderness areas have significantly less fixed anchors than non-wilderness areas that often near roads. Fixed anchors are an essential climbing tool for safety. Many climbs would not be possible without fixed anchors (such as bolts).

The impacts of fixed anchors on wilderness are an absolute minimum at worst. On big walls and multi-pitch rock faces, fixed anchors (such as bolts and pitons) can't be seen with the naked eye or with most binoculars. Camouflaging bolts, hangers & chains to match the rock color makes these fixed anchors often very difficult to see even from a short distance, such as standing at the base of a crag with numerous bolts.

The use of Power tools (including battery powered hammer drills) is prohibited in designated wilderness areas, so bolting is slow, hard work. This minimizes the numbers of bolts that are placed on wilderness climbs.

Fixed anchors have a long history of use in wilderness. They are often essential to conduct the wilderness activity of rock climbing. Prohibiting the use of fixed anchors endangers rock climbers and stops the historic precedent of establishing new climbs.

Future generations of climbers should be able to enjoy the same opportunities of adventure, that I have enjoyed in my 50 years of rock climbing. In the photo of Mt. Hooker in the Wind River Range, can you see a bolt? In the photo of Vampire Rock in Boulder Canyon (a sport climbing crag with lots of bolts) can you spot any of the bolts?

Sincerely,

Mark Rolofson