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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a climber that follows a policy to only use fixed gear, i.e. bolts/pitons, when natural/removable gear is unavailable. As a climber I've also observed that approximately 90% of cliffs/routes require at least some (one or more) fixed gear to safely climb.

I strongly urge a policy for all wilderness areas and public lands to allow fixed gear when necessary- that is when natural gear placements are absent. I also urge lawmakers and land managers NOT to adopt a blanket policy for "Minimum Requirements Analysis" on all fixed gear in wilderness areas or public lands.

Disallowing fixed gear in wilderness areas for climbers is the equivalent of disallowing footwear for hikers- this essentially makes these areas off-limits.

That said, black and white thinking doesn't serve the public or our resources so I do encourage a fixed anchor approval process (such as the very successful process used in Eldorado State Park, CO) as needed for culturally sensitive areas, such as Keyhole Canyon NV, and high impact/high use areas, such as Yosemite National Park.

Thank you,

A Wilderness Loving Climber