

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2023 3:46:09 AM

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Comments: Dear National Parks Service and US Forest Service,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed guidance policies that seek to prohibit fixed anchors in Wilderness areas across the country. Climbing anchors are a crucial component of climbers' safety systems and have been responsibly utilized under existing climbing policies for over half a century.

It is essential to recognize that fixed anchors are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Enforcing policies that align with established climbing practices will better protect Wilderness character while still accommodating primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

Federal agencies have historically allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades, and it seems unreasonable to introduce new guidance policies that would contradict this longstanding practice. Prohibiting fixed anchors could pose safety risks by impeding regular maintenance efforts carried out by the climbing community. Swift decisions often need to be made in critical safety situations, and any authorization process should not hinder these vital choices.

Furthermore, prohibiting fixed anchors may hinder appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers should permit climbers to navigate complex vertical terrain with the flexibility to make in-the-moment decisions necessary for safe climbing experiences.

I urge you to reconsider the potential consequences of prohibiting fixed anchors, as it could jeopardize America's rich climbing legacy and erode some of the world's most significant climbing achievements. Climbing management policies should aim to protect existing routes from removal and encourage safe anchor replacement, rather than obstructing the responsible maintenance efforts of the climbing community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope that you will take into consideration the feedback from the climbing community to ensure the preservation of both climbing access and safety in our nation's Wilderness areas.