Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2023 6:11:17 AM First name: Kevin Last name: Steffa Organization: Title:

Comments: Climbing, or traversing vertical rock while anchored to the rock for safety, as a form of recreation is already low impact, when compared to other activities. On the scale of impact to the landscape, it is far below any form of motorized recreation. In a wilderness context, climbing on durable surfaces is probably comparable to other low impact recreation such as hiking.

Hiking trails already leave an impact with cleared ground and vegetation. Similarly, climbing will leave a small impact with fixed anchors. However, an anchor point is probably less impactful than a trail, as these are merely '1D points', compared to a '2D line' for a trail.

We should therefore not consider excluding the use of fixed anchors, and regulate them "as an improper installation" in the wilderness, where other accepted methods of travel, such as trails, are already allowed and encouraged. These are just another tool which allow users to connect to a space, and appreciate it by passing through with only footprints. The main priority is that we all want to leave places protected from motorized use and development.