

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2023 6:34:45 PM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Callaghan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber with almost 50 years of experience, I have spent a lot of time climbing in the National Parks, in Wilderness areas, and in National Forest lands all over the USA. I have relied on fixed anchors in these places for all these years. I cannot understand how it would be able to climb in these places without fixed anchors.

Fixed anchors are absolutely essential for climbing. They are needed for safety, and are not prohibited installations under the Wilderness act. These anchors have been allowed in the National Forest, and Wilderness areas for longer than I have been climbing. What sense does it make to change the policy now?

Prohibiting fixed anchors, makes it nearly impossible for climbers keep themselves safe, and WILL lead to unnecessary accidents. Maintenance of these anchors essential, and will not be allowed under the ban.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will make it extremely difficult for climbers to make in the moment decisions, that are absolutely necessary for their safety in highly technical terrain.

A prohibition on fixed anchors, would erase climbing routes that are not only important to international climbing history, but would deprive future generations the opportunity to enjoy them.

Restricting climbers from establishing new routes, on non Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will result in confusion and disagreements between climbers and land managers.

National Forest non Wilderness lands, need to allow for new anchors unless there is a clear reason to ban them.

I implore you to listen to the climbing community, and realize that fixed anchors are appropriate in all National Forest Service land, whether they are designated wilderness or not.

Thank you;

Thomas W Callaghan