

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2023 10:54:55 PM

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Comments: By reclassifying fixed anchors (including slings, bolts, pitons, and ice screws) as prohibited installations in Wilderness and national forests, existing and new fixed anchors would require analysis and approval by the local land managers. This shift has the potential to impact historic climbing routes in iconic areas, as well as stifle future route development and fixed anchor maintenance for safety.

"As a climber, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in [Wilderness/national forests] remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in designated [Wilderness/national forest] areas."

The bottom line is that climbers are going to climb. The underlying question then is, Are you going to make it safe(r) for them to do so or forcibly remove, unnecessarily over regulate, and/or prohibit, a necessary means of protection and safety, and therefore open our government to liability for something that has been in existence for decades on historical climbs and newer ones, as well?

The protection in question is so small it fits in the palm of one's hand, eg., a bolt anchor or piton; a sling can be brown to blend and a chain link can be painted or powder coated to render it invisible until it's staring you in the face at the top of a pitch or route. That we are even debating this issue is almost comical in nature, given that we have highways, parking lots, paved walking trails, and huge developments in or immediately adjacent to some of these areas. Additionally, the USFS slogan is "The Land of Many Uses?" Instead of limiting our responsible use of USFS land, let's work together, responsibly, in creating a viable and safe(r) plan for a valid user group!

We make driving safe(r), let's do the same for climbers... Most of us are calculated risk takers, professionals, and family members, not crazed maniacs. I'm 65. My partners and I appreciate a good solid anchor(s) that are well placed and usable, so we can make it back to family, friends, and grandchildren.

Please consider our safety first.