

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/20/2023 3:57:38 PM

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Comments: While it is understandable that the NPS and USFS want to establish controls to preserve natural areas, I have been climbing for quite a while now, including a lot of traditional climbing (trad climbing), and I think they need to strongly reconsider aspects of what is proposed.

Climbers are going to climb. They always have, rules be damned. The idea of banning climbing is completely unenforceable. So, given that people will climb, I think the following should be really considered:

Fixed anchors have the following purposes:

- Fixed anchors preserve and protect trees and other natural resources nearby.
- In many instances, fixed anchors are like sign posts for routes, keeping people on route and going in the correct direction. You build sign posts don't you? This is true both on the way up and the way down. If climbers always rappel where you put the anchors then they always end up at a trail and don't disturb or harm any other areas finding their own way off the rock. If anything, there are a lot of routes and areas where ADDING fixed anchors would greatly preserve the area. Putting those in and telling people they have to "stay on the trail" / "stay on the anchors when descending" could help greatly preserve the areas.
- Fixed anchors are the most important part of a climber's safety system. It cannot be overstated that if all else fails the anchor needs to be extremely strong in the event of other failures. This is as true in traditional climbing as in sport climbing. Having the guarantee of fixed anchors is a godsend in terms of safety. You can skip bolts or choose to place gear or not but no one is skipping anchors.
- Fixed anchors make rescues significantly easier and more possible, greatly decreasing the manpower strain on rescue personnel if something does happen and a self rescue is not possible.
- Climbing has a long history and legacy that should be preserved as it is part of those national forests and parks.

This is not to say that no regulation is needed, but fixed anchors do a lot more to protect and manage climbing areas than any rule. They are the means by which to maintain and preserve, like trails or signs. But also incredibly important to safety. Please do not ruin America's climbing legacy by passing a policy that doesn't make sense.

In terms of regulation of new routes:

I do agree that some management needs to be put in place around where new routes can be bolted and how those bolts are maintained for pre-existing and historic routes. Perhaps a way to request routes that identifies how they'll be maintained, et cetera.

But, prohibiting new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" is really confusing. Someone may have been checking out a face of rock for 30 years. What is "existing?" That's not a policy and it's totally unenforceable.