

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 6:54:24 PM

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Comments: I am surprised and saddened by the proposal of the NFS to adopt the proposed new restrictions on fixed anchors by the Wilderness service. As an avid conservationist and explorer of National Forests and Wilderness lands I believe the motive to protect these lands is worthwhile, but the proposal does more harm than good by restricting the freedom to rock climb in these areas, that hold the best places in the country to pursue the endeavor.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect character while providing for primitive and unconfined climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Restricting the activity in the areas where it is best to practice the sport, is essentially dictating what a free people are allowed to participate in.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.