

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 8:46:15 PM

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Comments: I am an avid rock climber and I have been enjoying using fixed anchors in wilderness areas for over 40 years. I find the recent proposal of banning fixed anchors unnecessary and dangerous. Here are a few main points.

Visual impact-Fixed anchors are generally only visible to climbers on a cliff and are almost never seen by non climbers. So trying to say they are an eyesore is overboard.

Safety-Fixed anchors have been allowed as long as I've been a climber. The idea of suddenly banning them seems way out of line.

Healthy recreation-Rock climbing is an amazing sport that is getting more popular. It is a fantastic outlet for people and it helps keep kids out of trouble. We need more access, not less for future generations.

In closing my biggest question is why? It only seems like banning fixed anchors would hurt people and not help them. What's next? Banning surfing because people are peeing in the ocean? Banning ski lifts because they are ugly. I think finding common ground and workable solutions with people who enjoy outdoor recreation is very important for a healthy society. I just can't think of who will benefit from banning fixed anchors. But I know it would be a tragic blow to the rock climbing community. It's just not a good idea for the freedom we all hold dear.

With respect,

Dave Hatchett