

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 9:31:14 PM

First name: Patrick

Last name: Normile

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose a fixed anchor ban in public lands. There are countless routes on FS land, and many of them are unsafe to climb without some level of fixed anchor protection. These anchors will need updating as all anchors have a finite lifespan. Even existing anchors with older technology (thinner, shorter bolts, uncertified hangers) are unsafe as they are, and should be replaced. The only way a bolting ban achieves its goal is if climbing is banned too, because people will climb the routes no matter what. They should be able to trust that experienced climbers & climbing advocates have ensured the route is safe when it says there is a bolt. Second, as the nature of routes changes with time, and the risk tolerance of climbers changes, adding bolts may become necessary in places where there aren't bolts. Think of snake dike. There are popular climbs in Eldorado Canyon SP in Colorado, where so many climbers have placed protection in the rock in the same place (for anchors) that it has worn the quality of the rock down and a bolt is needed to offer a similar level of safety. Lastly, new routes would be near impossible without bolts. Even new trad routes may need bolts in unprotectable blank faces. Many pro climbers travel to the US to try new routes, put up first ascents, and inspire other climbers. Disallowing them to recreate would be a shame. Limiting enforcement of new routes to existing areas is unenforceable and un-American. People will venture out and climb rocks. You can't stop them from doing that.