

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 10:12:29 PM

First name: Jeffrey

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Administration,

I am writing to object to the proposed change in policy that would lead to the banning and potential removal of fixed climbing anchors in Wilderness for which there is a 50+ year precedent.

In reference to the text of the act:

"(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions"

- Fixed anchors within the current policy application do not "trammel", do not change the "character" of, nor dominate the landscape (as they are not readily visible) by any conceivable means.

"(1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;"

- Fixed climbing anchors do not go against the first definition of the act where the "imprints" of a fixed anchor are "substantially unnoticeable". A fixed climbing anchor is no more than 1.5 inches x 2 inches. It is not noticeable and does not change the appearance of the landscape.

"(2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;"

- Climbing in the wilderness is a uniquely American activity (I have climbed in many parts of the world and can attest to that) that offers amazing opportunities of solitude and unconfined recreation. To prohibit fixed climbing anchors would serve to remove this recreational opportunity which is the exact opposite of the intent of the Wilderness Act and the precedent that has been set for the past 50+ years.

- As a climber of over 30 years who has sought out wilderness climbing experiences across our beautiful country I can attest to the success of the Wilderness Act to-date in achieving its desired objectives. I sincerely request that we let prior precedents be and allow for the continued use and placement of fixed climbing anchors in alignment with current policies. An acceptance to place and re-place (as necessary) fixed anchors in Wilderness will allow for generations of appropriately safe yet primitive recreation.

Best regards,

Jeff Buhl