

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 10:50:55 PM

First name: Arthur

Last name: Murphy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a senior citizen (now 80), and the holder of an Interagency (National Parks) Senior Lifetime Pass, and as someone who still does rock climbing, I oppose the new regulations.

Although most of my climbing is now indoor climbing, the proposed regulations seem too restrictive. Existing policies appear to have worked well.

It seems unreasonable to me for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Please - enough. Like Prohibition, you may have good motives, but regulations here will do more harm than good.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.