

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 11:06:35 PM

First name: Alan

Last name: Prehmus

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock climbing is an \_appropriate\_ activity in wilderness areas. If climbing is allowed, some (managed) fixed anchors should be allowed. Without fixed anchors, climbers will leave messy rope/sling anchors or walk/scramble down highly erosive and often dangerous descent trails.

Many public land managers use citizen committees to help manage when and where fixed climbing hardware is used. Wilderness areas should follow a similar approach and manage rather than strictly prohibit fixed hardware.

Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(c)) prohibits Installations in the context of roads, motorized transport and structures. Wilderness areas certainly allow trails for foot traffic. Fixed climbing anchors should be seen as support for non-mechanized (steep) trails, and not be considered to be "Installations".

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.