

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 12:25:44 AM

First name: Evan

Last name: Peters

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I am a climber who has spent countless days climbing on USFS lands, in areas of wilderness and non wilderness. This proposal is clearly out of touch with the practices, principles, and operations of modern rock, ice and alpine climbers. Prohibiting new equipment puts the lives of climbers in danger and could completely change the nature of climbing, particularly in the western US. This proposal clearly demonstrates a lack of understanding of the climbing community and climbing development. Please reconsider these proposed ideas and allow climbing hardware to be replaced and installed within wilderness. At the very least these anchors and protection points need the ability to be immediately replaced as climbing hardware frequently reaches a point of not being safe anymore. As it stands this proposal has the ability to put the lives of climbers in danger, particularly new climbers as the sport is seeing a huge amount of growth. It could also increase the need for search and rescue in areas where SAR teams are stretched to their limit. A helicopter on a rescue has a far larger impact to a wilderness area than a bolted anchor or sling around a monolith.

Please, reconsider these proposed changes.

Thank you.