

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 6:33:44 PM

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Comments: I have been climbing and exploring Wilderness areas throughout the US all of my life. I appreciate the limits on human activity and permanent structures in these areas and the impact this has on users' experiences and wildlife. However, I completely and entirely disagree that reasonable, permanent, metal climbing hardware should be entirely banned from Wilderness areas. For one, by not allow permanent hardware, it is inevitable that climbers will resort to leaving slings and rope at anchors instead. This is not only more dangerous because it doesn't last as long, but it is often colorful and more visible than small metal anchors. Second, banning metal hardware is essentially limiting climbing access in these areas. I believe climbers tend to be responsible stewards of wilderness areas, and it is an incredible and unique way to appreciate our wild and PUBLIC lands.

While I am not opposed to some regulation of climbing hardware in Wilderness areas (i.e., no power drills), I strong encourage you to reconsider this legislation.