Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2024 12:06:07 AM First name: Preston Last name: Haas Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rock climbing stands as a legitimate and time-honored pursuit within wilderness areas, akin to other recognized uses of these terrains. Fixed anchors are an important aspect to climbing safety and have been used within the US since the 1930s. The US should follow suit on its approach to fixed anchors in a similar fashion to other counties in Europe who have a much more extensive history with mountaineering and rock climbing. Fixed anchors serve a crucial role in securing climbers' safely amid precarious landscapes, offering vital protection during ascents and ensuring secure belays or emergency escapes. Notably, the Wilderness Act doesn't explicitly ban the installation of fixed anchors. Prohibiting these fixtures or removing existing ones could pose grave safety hazards, endangering both climbers and emergency rescue teams compelled to establish anchors under duress. Acknowledging their responsible installation and management can not only maintain safety standards but also help preserve the sanctity of these natural spaces while allowing for the continuation of this respected outdoor pursuit.