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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to comment on the proposal to ban fixed anchors in wilderness areas. I've relied on these anchors throughout my climbing career to maximize my and my climbing partners safety. Can I build my own anchors? Yes. I've had extensive training on anchor building. However, what I fear is that younger or more inexperienced climbers, who have not had training, will be unsafe. Climbers will setup unsightly webbed anchors and inexperienced climbers will not know if they are safe or not.

I've known of people in my climbing community who have used temporary webbing and had fatal accidents because they did not know that the webbing was unsafe and it broke through.

I can certainly understand prohibiting bolting on lines for sport climbing - that can be unsightly and can draw crowds, but anchors on traditional routes that are out of sight is the responsible thing to do.

If it is cost savings - perhaps ask for donations from organizations like Access Fund or American Alpine Club. If it's crowded access that's needed - charge fees at popular locations. If it's safety - removing and not allowing anchors will just augment the problem. Climbers will still come.

Thank you for reviewing my comments.

Amy Bank

Climber for 20+ years