

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2024 2:07:22 PM

First name: Phil

Last name: Ratterman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've been a responsible backcountry user and climber for over 30 years. I'm concerned about the impending changes regarding fixed anchors in the wilderness. Fixed anchors are a critical safety tool for use of our rock climbing areas. While care and oversight are a wise needed aspect to permanent anchors, there needs to be a straightforward process for maintaining and adding new ones. Removing fixed anchors from the wilderness will unnecessarily scar our mountains/crags and endanger all those that travel in the area.

Numerous injuries/fatalities have occurred due to improper (or no) fixed anchors on routes where natural protection is not possible. Descent routes are of the utmost importance. Fixed anchors facilitate coming down a rock formation in a safe way. Without fixed anchor climbers are often forced to use dangerous paths for retreat that risk injuring themselves and/or others.

Please keep the use of fixed anchors available and do not remove existing fixed anchors.

Regards,

Phil