Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2024 4:11:29 PM

First name: Doug Last name: Amrhein Organization:

Title:

Comments: Per removing fixed anchors and prohibiting maintenance:

Anchors are often a crucial part in route development and route use. Without them a route can become significantly more dangerous as building an anchor may not be an option. Anchors are the fundamental safety system in a rock climb. Nearly all high difficulty routes use fixed anchors and the removal of them may stunt the growth of the sport. With the growth of the sport, especially in the last few years, more people have become aware and grown love for our amazing ourdoor space in a way that translates and likely life changing in their daily habits and decisions. More people are wanting to follow LNT principles, provide volunteering, and donate to help protect these areas. Where I live, the new river gorge, it is the climbers that are picking up trash, working on the trails, and providing impromptu assistance to other park visitors. This can be as little as helping someone back to the trail if they are lost to using wilderness medicine techniques, in a way we are an extension of the NPS system and core beliefs. Yosemite SNR was founded by Jim Bridwell, a climber.

While I do not disagree that our wilderness areas should be protected. Ultimately anchor creation/ maintenance should be done with caution and with approval from the NPS. The removal of a route / prohibition should be at the consensus of the local climbers. Generally a first ascentist will not equip a route with fixed anchors unless they believe it is necessary, it is significantly more expensive and labor intensive than using non-fixed gear.

Please work with climbers to reach a compromise that works for both parties. Access fund, or a local rock alliance are the people to bring to the table on their thoughts and expertise