

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2024 8:25:29 PM

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Comments: I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the prohibition of fixed climbing anchors in any federal land including Wilderness Areas.

This re-interpretation of fixed climbing anchors and critical climbing protection as "installations" is both inaccurate and unreasonable. Fixed climbing anchors are a critical element of safety for climbers and were in place long before the Wilderness Act of 1964. These two things are not incompatible in any way. I would ask: what problem are you solving? Why create a multitude of problems and resource strains with no benefit?

First, there is a complete lack of enforceability of this policy - the NPS is already extremely underfunded, and this will create an unwarranted distraction and strain on resources.

This will damage the ability of local access funds and climbing groups to maintain essential safety elements for climbing, creating unnecessary safety hazards for those responsibly exploring wilderness areas. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of classic climbing routes, destroying the legacy of American achievement in climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Fixed anchors are simply not "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that have allowed judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect the Wilderness we all care for and love to experience.

I ask that you take the care to ensure that climbing management policy protects existing routes and does not destroy them.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.