

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2024 9:38:05 PM

First name: W

Last name: Duncan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments relevant to: "FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524":

As a climber for more than 40 years, I appreciate and support the preservation efforts of the NFS and NPS to prevent the over-proliferation of bolts in applicable areas. As a traditionalist-minded climber, the "sport routes" have no business in remote areas, in my opinion. I've seen the results and closures that occur because of poor judgement by these kinds of climbers.

That said, I would like to appeal to the management organizations to continue to allow the replacement and servicing of preexisting rappel & belay anchors that are not associated with over-bolted faces. These anchors are crucial to a safe climbing experience, and human life should take precedence over any other considerations. This activity should not require a bureaucratic application process, but instead a better definition or description from management organizations of what kinds of anchors are allowed and when. I have placed many belay/rappel anchors on first ascents of walls and towers, and always placed them in an invisible location whenever possible, using colors that blend in with the environment. Not all climbers are aware of these best practices, so focus should be given to education before regulation.

Thank you,

W. Duncan