

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2024 6:05:45 AM

First name: Colin

Last name: Rider

Organization:

Title:

Comments: There are a lot of reasons that people will cite in their comments on this matter. A lot will say that the new climbing management proposal for wilderness areas, that defines fixed anchors as prohibited installations, goes against decades of tradition. That it will, in practice, be unmanageable. That it will create confusion. That it won't be enforceable.

I don't think that any of these reasons should shut down the argument in favor of the policy changes. Traditions by themselves are not reason enough to continue a practice unchanged. The difficulties in rolling out and enforcing a policy change is not reason enough to abandon a well-meaning idea.

What I see is the threat to climbers' lives that will result in the passage of this proposed policy change. The fixed anchors save the lives of climbers. Climbers need to rely on their own judgement and the best practices in the climbing community when deciding how to protect themselves from falling to their death. Having administrators make that call for all climbers in all these areas is not something that can be done with the level of time and attention that is needed. The level of familiarity with the climbing routes that is needed to make these calls is something that only the climbers themselves can attain. This is especially true for new climbing routes. In short, I think that the proposed policy changes will put climbers at a higher risk of injury and death.