

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/13/2024 4:19:09 AM

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Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and they allow people who do not have thousands of dollars worth of traditional gear to access outdoor climbing areas. A bolted anchor is more secure than removable gear and is often the only way to protect a climb. Although bolts may be visible to non-climbers they frequently blend into the rock and are often imperceptible unless one is specifically looking for them and they do not fundamentally degrade a wilderness experience. Rather, bolted climbs often encourage people to explore and enjoy wilderness areas and their use should be encouraged instead of overly regulated.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.