

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/13/2024 10:44:12 PM

First name: conway

Last name: yao

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The best way to manage the increasing popularity of outdoor rock climbing is to accept it and acknowledge that people will be making impacts no matter what. The best way to do this is to still allow the establishment and maintenance of fixed anchors, especially for traditional routes.

Traditional routes ('trad climbing routes') inherently already have a stiff barrier to entry in terms of gear, skill, and training involved in order to climb them. The climbers who undertake trad climbing, especially in its modern form with leave-no-trace gear like removable cams and nuts, are also folks who are unlikely to cause lasting environmental harm. Allowing fixed anchors for trad routes strikes the balance of promoting safety, while still limiting access to all but the hardest of climbers.