

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/16/2024 10:23:47 PM

First name: Dave

Last name: Meservy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a rock climber of over thirty years on the public lands of our country. I believe that preserving the areas that I have been fortunate enough to enjoy for my life is of the utmost importance for generations to come (which include my children) and all user groups. However, the proposed ban/ removal of fixed anchors in wilderness areas is an extreme and unreasonable approach that will be a damaging loss to our country's rich climbing heritage. Climbing is an amazing way to experience our country's lands and fixed anchors are essential for climbing to exist in the vast majority of climbing areas. A great example is the world famous climbs on El Capitan in Yosemite NP which attract people from all over the world. These climbs cannot be developed without fixed anchors and anchor placement CANNOT be determined prior to placement for route development in most cases. Climbers in general are great stewards of the land and are open to ways of improving preservation especially as the sport grows, but the proposed ban is not a reasonable solution for preservation and it could end the rich climbing traditions ( which include many relationships that have already been built between climbers and land managers) that are so valuable to our citizens and the rest of the world.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Sincerely,

Dave Meservy