

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 5:05:15 AM

First name: robby

Last name: brower

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I lived in Southern for 8 years and spent many days exploring areas like Dixie National Forest through climbing and canyoneering. This time has been the defining period of my life, and I would hate for such an opportunity to be taken away from current and future generations.

Restricting new routes to existing climbing opportunities on non-wilderness lands is unenforceable and will only create issues and confusion for climbers and managers. Instead the focus should be on maintaining opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine there is a need to protect cultural and natural resources.

Fixed anchors help preserve the wilderness character of these special places and allow safe passage for groups of all ability levels. Such a prohibition will create safety issues by slowing response times and exposing these user groups to aging equipment that could be maintained and impede necessary in the moment decisions while navigating vertical terrain. Instead managers should focus on policies that promote anchor replacement and allows climbers and canyoneers to explore the wilderness' complex vertical terrain. A well camouflaged anchor hardly impacts the view shed of other user groups like a hiker or equestrian on a trail.

Please dont threaten the removal of existing routes and America's rich climbing and canyoneering legacy by implementing this document. Climbing and Canyoneering anchors have long been a part of the wilderness experience, its unreasonable to ban them now in light of this history. moving forward with this proposal would be a great hindrance to wilderness exploration and huge blow to the climbing community.

Thank you for considering these comments, please do not enact this policy. Instead wait for the Protect America's Rock Climbing Act and America's Outdoor Recreation Act to move through congress.

Regards,

Robby Brower