

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/18/2024 5:31:58 AM

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Comments: Prohibiting fixed anchors would create safety issues by discouraging the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions about anchor placement must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance should 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 should allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain. I understand wanting a climber to notify the Forest Service if they will be establishing a new route, but it isn't feasible that the individual could estimate the number of bolts placed or other specifics until after the fact.

Climbing management policy should protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is too restrictive and would create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless analysis determines climbing should be restricted at a particular site to protect cultural and natural resources.