

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 4:07:29 PM

First name: Dane

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Dane, and over the last six years climbing, mostly on Forest Service land, has become an integral part of who I am and how I interact with the world around me. As a mountain guide, it is my source of income, but on a deeper level, as a human being, it is my source of purpose, of fulfillment; it's how I push myself, explore who I am, and explore, at a macro- and micro- level the beauty and intricacy of nature. While I strive to absolutely minimize my impact on Forest Service and other wild landscapes, fixed anchors are sometimes necessary to maintain a reasonable standard of safety. Whether using other peoples fixed anchors or placing them myself, for protection or for rappelling, many fixed anchors have been absolutely essential to staying alive and in one piece, and have enabled me to experience so many wild places in such profound ways. With legislation that outlaws fixed anchors and/or enables people who have never used said anchors to remove them, surely there would be far more climbing accidents, many fatal, on Forest Service land. Additionally, there is strong argument to be made that fixed anchors for climbing are far less impactful than other widespread and accepted installations, such as bridges, trails, and signs. Just about everyone who visits a section of the Forest will see and recognize the alteration to the wild landscape made by a bridge or trail, but only a tiny fraction of those people will ever see or even be aware of a bolt or piton in a sea of rock high up on the side of a mountain. The only people who's experience will be affected by that anchor are climbers who will gratefully clip that anchor and stay safe because of it. And due to the highly adventurous, uncertain, and consequential nature of establishing new climbers in wild places, it is essential that climbers be able to make their decision of whether or not to place a fixed anchor in the moment, not be governed by someone else who is unaware of the specific situation they face. All climbers I know are deeply concerned with maintaining the pristine nature of the places in which they recreate, and climbing in the best style they can which includes placing fixed anchors only when necessary. In my experience, climbing is one of the most intimate and intense ways one can experience the wild natural world, and fixed anchors are essential to keep climbing safe.

Thank you for your consideration.