

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/20/2024 12:11:30 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been climbing for 45 years, in the USA and also internationally. Much of my climbing has been done away from roads on remote cliffs and mountains - in Wilderness areas.

Fixed anchors, whether they be slings, wire nuts and chockstones, pitons or bolts, are almost always necessary to allow for safe descent from a mountain, and often to get off a crag too. Similarly, fixed anchors are required at many belay stances on multi-pitch routes to protect the climbers.

Not having fixed anchors would effectively put an end to a large percentage of climbs in Wilderness area. I conservatively estimate that over 80% of climbs would be rendered unclimbable as a result.

Fixed anchors in Wilderness areas create far less impact than trails or campsites, never mind roads. If fixed anchors were to be banned, then other human-built structures and impacts should be removed too, including roads, trails, campsites.

It should be noted that climbing is a legitimate activity in Wilderness areas, and climbing was a popular activity in these areas well before the Wilderness Act was established.

As a tax-paying citizen I strongly oppose this curtailment of my rights on public land.