

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/21/2024 12:21:39 AM

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Organization:

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Comments: Attn: Forest Service Administrators

I am an avid climber of 30 years. I have climbed in many national parks including Yosemite, Tetons, Rocky Mountain, Joshua Tree, and many more. I am concerned about the possibility of banning fixed anchors. These anchors are an essential part of my safety system while climbing. I depend on belay and lead anchors being in place to ensure my safe retreat and progress. In the times I have come upon a missing fixed anchor I have been forced to resort to questionably safe tactics to retreat or descend. I climb on traditional gear whenever possible and strive to leave not trace on the rock. I value our national resource, beautiful rock structures, and don't want to see them destroyed or marred. Most anchors are not visible to non-climbers. Generally, they are unintrusive. I understand the use of power equipment can be distracting to non-climbers and I support the ban of power drills, but I believe in the human possibilities of putting fixed anchors by hand. This is a skill that is at the core of our country's climbing community. We also need to make sure that old/unsafe bolts can be replaced so future climbers don't have to decide between risking their lives and breaking the law. The United States has a long history of being a leader in mountain exploration. Removing fixed anchors from our national treasures will set back our country in terms of leading the future of climbing. We will lose the interest and respect of foreign climbers. Please consider continuing to allow fixed anchors thoughtfully and respectfully.