

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 9:11:33 PM

First name: Sam

Last name: Butler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is clearly stated in the Wilderness Act that installations and structures like permanent fixed climbing anchors are prohibited. Fixed climbing anchors must not be allowed in Wilderness by law. There is no leeway in this requirement. Legally these installations and structures are banned.

Climbers can already use non-permanent fixed anchors, something which is mostly compatible with the wilderness designation. Therefore, an existing, workable alternative to permanent fixed structures already exists. If some people are used to using permanent anchors or are too lazy to seek alternatives, I suggest they learn to use non-permanent fixed anchors. Wilderness cannot be sacrificed based on the personal preferences of humans.

Please remember that the Forest Services's primary duty is to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state. Exceptions to this are allowed only in rare, administrative circumstances where the installation is necessary to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state. The use of permanent installations and structures is clearly not an exception.

Agencies have no duty to develop Wilderness to provide "opportunities for primitive recreation." Wilderness, by its very existence, provides these opportunities-the agencies need only to protect the Wilderness according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act to safeguard the opportunity.