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First name: Peter

Last name: Beves

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness is unsullied nature in the raw, nature with no sign of human incursion. The Wilderness Act prohibits installations and structures like permanent fixed climbing anchors in order to protect the areas' wild character. This is quite clear.

An desire to facilitate or enhance a particular form of recreation, and the narrow administrative exception for installations does not extend to the general public seeking to create developed recreational activities in Wilderness. The agencies' primary duty is to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammled state.

Climbing without permanent fixed anchors is generally compatible with wilderness preservation. While it may be true that fewer people will climb certain routes in Wilderness if they don't have fixed bolts or other permanently-installed protection, natural limits on use is not a bad thing when it comes to wilderness protection, particularly with the recent explosion of outdoor recreation uses in Wilderness. For those climbers seeking developed climbing opportunities, there are ample permanently bolted climbs outside of Wilderness.

Any specific proposals for permanent fixed anchor installations in Wilderness must be subjected to public notice and an opportunity for public comment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.