

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 3:07:44 PM

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Comments: I am writing to express concern with the current proposal that greatly limits the ability of climbers to install new anchors or maintain existing ones. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of a climbers safety system and are not prohibited under the wilderness act. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Additional bureaucratic hurdles for the maintenance of existing anchors threaten the safety of climbers and it is not reasonable to expect that already understaffed federal agencies can handle this additional workload on a reasonable timeline. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Anchor placement and replacement in wilderness areas is already appropriately limited through the ban on power drills and wilderness climbing ethics held within the climbing community, which put a premium on minimum impact and leave no trace principles. With this approach, climbing can continue to be an appropriate wilderness activity with minimal impact on the area or other users.