Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 4:38:55 PM First name: Adam Last name: Block Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am deeply sorrowed by the proposal. To undermine the original Wilderness Act's protection of American climbing which predates the wilderness classification. To do so with such vague unenforceable language is doubly erroneous. Many of the comments in favor of these changes are misguided to the nuance of wilderness climbing. As a wilderness climber of several years, our impact is less than the usual boy scout backpacking trip. We camp on solid surfaces, don't litter and advocate for sustainable hardware. Banning permanent hardware will not reduce climbing traffic, this is simply not a deterrent for us. This will however lead to increase in non-permanent temporary anchors that are required for any safe ascent or descent. Temporary anchors like nylon slings and rope will degrade and become micro trash in the water supply. This types of anchors do and will fail, causing accidents and helicopter rescues that disturb wilderness much more so. Large efforts in recent years are attempting to upgrade the existing dangerous temporary anchors with permanent solutions. I hope you see that this legislation will only hurt a long lasting and beloved user group and harm the wilderness it seeks to protect from everyone.