Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 5:29:58 PM

First name: Chris Last name: Hirsch Organization:

Title:

Comments: In regard to the potential banning of fixed hardware in Wilderness areas; This would be such a shame and a huge loss of the long history that climbing has established since even before the 1964 Wilderness Act. As a climber of 20 years and a frequent user of wilderness areas, I would argue that climbers are one of the more respectful user groups out there, and excel at self-regulating. We also don't want to see cliffs over-bolted but deserve to explore the wilderness in a safe and reasonable manner, since climbing is recognized as a legitimate activity in the wilderness. As these places get busier every year, somethings are necessary for the sake of safety and sustainability. For example; trail and camping markers. Are these not considered "prohibited installations"? Without trail signage or climbing bolts, both user groups would get lost more frequently and therefore vegetation would suffer. A bolt high up on a rock is far less unsightly than dying trees/bushes due to anchor use. I don't have any suggestions on how to limit fixed anchors in the wilderness, especially since extra funding will not be given, but a total ban seems too extremist.