

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 8:26:08 PM

First name: Ann

Last name: Dorsey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge you to reject permitting the installation of permanent fixed climbing anchors in wilderness areas. These areas cover less than 3 percent of land in the lower 48 states and are threatened, in part, by rapidly escalating recreation pressures.

The agencies' primary duty is to protect Wilderness in its natural untrammelled state by upholding the Wilderness Act, which prohibits installations and structures like permanent fixed climbing anchors. This prohibition must not be overturned to facilitate or enhance a particular form of recreation. Also, applying the narrow administrative exception must only be used when the installation is necessary to protect Wilderness and does not allow the general public to create developed recreational activities.

Climbing without permanent fixed anchors is generally compatible with wilderness preservation and that there will be fewer climbers on some routes without fixed bolts will help such preservation. Additionally, there is no shortage of places with permanently bolted routes outside wilderness areas.

I urge you also to uphold NEPA requirements for any specific proposals for permanent fixed anchor installations in Wilderness by ensuring there is public notice and an opportunity for public comment.

Thank you