

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 4:28:45 PM

First name: Rebecca

Last name: Smyth

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Wilderness Act strictly prohibition fixed installations and should not be overcome by a desire to facilitate or enhance a particular form of recreation. Also, as an agency there is no duty to develop Wilderness to provide "opportunities for primitive recreation." Wilderness, by its very existence, provides these opportunities in its natural state. With less than 3 percent of land in the Lower 48 protected as Wilderness, it is an endangered landscape. A more authentic expression of the agency's duty is to protect the Wilderness according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act to safeguard such opportunities.

Climbing without permanent fixed anchors is generally compatible with wilderness preservation. While it may be true that fewer people will climb certain routes 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.

We do not as humans have to conquer and permanently disfigure everything, everywhere on the planet.