

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 9:20:37 PM

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Comments: I was alarmed to find that both your agency and NPS are proposing policies that elevate recreation above Wilderness protection which will permanently scar and degrade Wilderness through the installation of fixed climbing anchors

Your agencies' primary duty is to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state, and the Wilderness Act's ban on installations can only be overcome in rare administrative circumstances where the installation is necessary to protect Wilderness in its natural, untrammelled state.

Additionally your agency has no duty to develop Wilderness to provide "opportunities for primitive recreation." Wilderness, by its very existence, provides these opportunities-the agencies need only to protect the Wilderness according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act to safeguard the opportunity.

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

I am asking your agency to uphold the Wilderness Act by keeping fixed anchors out of Wilderness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this public issue.