

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 10:23:23 PM

First name: Keith

Last name: Butsko

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi,

My name is Keith, I'm an outdoor enthusiast && consider myself to be environmentally focused. I work for a company in Carlsbad, CA that focuses on making sustainable apparel. I've enjoyed rock climbing in our National Parks for the last decade and as a father of one, with another on the way, am excited to pass on my love for the outdoors && recreational sports, like sport climbing, to my children.

I understand the importance of needing to update guidelines with the evolving nature of recreation in wilderness, but implementing this policy is extreme && unreasonable. Prohibiting fixed anchors creates a HUGE safety issue, they are essential; this is something that should be managed by the climbing community. Climbing preceded the Wilderness Act and was not prohibited or considered an installation, therefore is taken out of context in this sense.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

The removal of anchors and bolts for sport climbing would destroy legacy routes and areas that are seen as iconic in a beautiful sport. Leaving it to the discretion of the park manager would be political and subjective to their personal ideologies. By and large, the climbing community is very self-governing and has great environmental awareness and respect. A climber's self-governing body should be responsible for the action of this in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Keith Butsko