

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 10:43:52 PM

First name: Teresa

Last name: Levinson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I read the documents for both the National Forest Service and National Park Service. As I understand these documents, fixed anchors are allowed to be used and retained until an MRA has been completed. I also realize that in emergency situations, fixed anchors can be replaced. However, if an individual wants to replace fixed anchors (bolts) in a situation that wouldn't be considered "emergency", an MRA must be obtained.

My concern is that the Forest Service and park Service don't have the resources to review the submitted MRA in a timely manner and that subsequently accidents may occur if the fixed anchor fails. Is there a time frame by which an MRA is expected to be reviewed? If that time lapses, can an individual replace the fixed anchor without an MRA?

I would like to understand the goal that we are all trying to achieve here. If the goal is safety, one needs to consider my argument above. If it is conservation, we can work together to achieve these goals. As a climber for 27 years and a NOLS graduate, I always go into the wilderness with a Leave No Trace approach. I have taught my two children (now teenagers) and others to follow these approaches when climbing, backpacking or spending any time in these places. I started this journey as a climber and I think the climbing community supports this approach. I wholeheartedly agree that we need to come up with an approach that tries to achieve the goals of many parties. Thus we need to understand the rationale behind and goal of these documents. We need to keep the safety of climbers and conservation in the forefront of these arguments.

Please consider how you would approach the likely lack of funding to review an MRA for new routes that want to be put up as well as if an MRA is submitted to replace fixed anchors on an existing route.

Teresa Levinson