

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 6:53:19 AM

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Comments: To whom it may concern:

Fixed anchors are necessary to allow safe climbing to occur and should be allowed. There is no good reason to ban modern fixed anchors as they significantly reduce the chance of injury or death and such anchors have been managed by federal agencies for many decades. Anchors are for the most part not a major visual distraction and they are easily camouflaged (using colored paint) if necessary.

The banning of anchors will only serve to restrict vertical exploration of public lands while severely restricting and unduly punishing a user group that has a rich history and culture. Climbers have worked diligently with local, state, and federal land managers as well as with private land managers to mitigate impacts on the land.

Restricting or banning anchors will lead to an increase in accidents as climbers rely on less secure removable protection. Although traditional climbing is practiced, even then, rappel anchors, especially in remote areas (including wilderness areas) make for safe and orderly retreat from routes. Without reliable modern anchors, retreating from the climb can become tenuous or dangerous even for experienced climbers.

How will your organization have the resources to police all anchors? It seems unlikely that you would even have the manpower or time to devote to policing something that has been around and has been managed for a long time. Wouldn't resources be spent better on something else?

There are many other countries with public lands who have rich climbing histories as well. Look no further than places like Austria, France, Spain, Switzerland, etc. as examples of countries with vast public lands where fixed anchors are not under scrutiny. Why waste resources on something that is not a problem?