

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 3:03:07 PM

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Comments:

I am reaching out as a multigenerational rock climber, father, public employee, and dedicated caretaker of my public lands: PLEASE DO NOT CLASSIFY FIXED ANCHORS AS INSTALLATIONS (ILLEGAL OR OTHERWISE). The following are the reasons why:

Fixed anchors save lives. The most common accidents in climbing often happen during the rappel, and without the availability of quality fixed anchors. By making these illegal, it forces unsafe alternatives (rappelling from rotten trees, unprotected class 4 walk off's, etc.) will lead to more climbing and hiking related deaths in the future. I have seen too many accidents happen over my 30+ years of climbing where a passive piece of protection failed or a rappel from a slung boulder failed (in areas where fixed anchors were discouraged or banned) and all of these accidents would have been prevented had a fixed anchor been present.

Fixed anchors protect the environment. The minimal visual and environmental impact of camouflaged bolts in rock is far less destructive than repeated slinging of trees, social pathways all over the top of cliffs to set up top rope anchors and walk off's, or pounding in and removing pins into the wall. By allowing new climbing route development with fixed anchors (as has been allowed for the past 60 years) the crowd and impacts of climbers are continually spread out over more areas, allowing vegetation to recover, and easing the impacts on wildlife.

Fixed anchors provide for safe, accessible recreation on public lands. Climbing on fixed anchors with safe rappels provides a unique experience for climbers of all ages and abilities to enjoy the outdoors. They can push their limits both physically and mentally, knowing that they are protected by a quality anchor and will not die by having a passive piece of protection blow out and allow them to hit the ground.

I would also implore you to please take the time to cure the obvious "bot" and AI generated comments from this discussion. Unfortunately in this digital age, these "comments" dilute the discussion, and are focused on generating false support for or against a topic, and need to be removed. Algorithms used by special interest groups substantially limit access for American families to all public land, and are exploited frequently in the permit process (ex: recreation.gov) and the public comment process.

I am a dedicated public employee myself, with a deep respect for federal, state, and local land managers. Please make the responsible decision and do not classify fixed anchors as installations (Illegal or otherwise). Our children's future depends on it!