Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 4:38:45 PM First name: Jonathan Last name: Cooke Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a climber, I want to ensure the safe and responsible use, and continued maintenance of fixed anchors in the many climbing areas I visit on a yearly basis remains available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained by climbers in designated wilderness areas and national forest.

Additionally, I am concerned that whoever has proposed this "amendment to the wilderness act" may not fully appreciate the potentially devastating effects of removing fixed anchors that are not only used to ensure the safety of climbers while recreating but also are necessary for safe and timely retreat from high mountain routes and tall walls.

Fixed anchors are rarely an eyesore to the general public. Typically it is only climbers who encounter them at all. There may be instances where a fixed anchor comprised of brightly colored slings could be seen from far away (i.e. from the ground), but it is undoubtedly better to improve that anchor (use less bright materials) than to remove it. Bolts are hard to see from a distance, especially if painted to match the rock color and, in my opinion, it is a weak argument to claim they meaningfully detract from the experience of other user groups (especially considering their crucial value to climbers).