

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 6:00:56 PM

First name: Hadden

Last name: Goodman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed policy to prohibit and remove fixed anchors in wilderness and proposed wilderness areas. As a person who Loves spending time in these remote areas, I understand the concern for the eyesore that fixed anchors and bolts could present. I want to state though, that this is very rarely the case. Fixed anchors are almost always very innocuous. In fact, sometimes they are so innocuous, that you can't even find them when you're looking for them. As it is right now, in a lot of areas, "tat" is being used for anchors. "Tat" is webbing or cord secured (not permanently) around a structure such as a tree or a rock. This is much more of an eyesore and a lot more dangerous than a fixed anchor is.

Fixed anchors help keep climbers safe in a very dangerous environment. Prohibiting, and certainly removing fixed anchors, would greatly increase the element of risk for climbers. I'm sure you've heard the story of fixed anchors being removed in the Cascades, and as a result, a climber was forced to try to descend a dangerous gulley and fell to his death. This is a very upsetting scenario.

I am asking you to PLEASE not pass the prohibition policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.