

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 7:05:55 AM

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Comments: After reviewing the proposal for restricting fixed anchors on public lands, I have come to three conclusions:

1. The overly bureaucratic and cumbersome process proposed in the draft rules will make it difficult, if not impossible, for responsible groups and individuals (such as the American Alpine Club, the Access Fund and other local groups) to maintain and install fixed anchors.
2. The lack of responsible installation and maintenance of fixed anchors will lead to unnecessary injuries, and potentially deaths, of climbers.
3. The proposed rules will have no impact on the behavior of irresponsible individuals, who will install bolts (of unknown quality) without regard to government rules. (And, since removing a bolt causes more damage to the rock than leaving it in place, this is a real problem for enforcement.)

Clearly, the impact of the proposed process will be negative - vital, responsibly installed and maintained safety equipment will be eliminated, putting climbers at risk. Meanwhile, bolts will be placed where individuals willing to ignore the rules feel there should be bolts. The current proposal will have a negative impact on climber safety, while having no significant environmental impact.

I would encourage starting over, working with climbers to develop a system that will put the safety of climbers first while also minimizing the impact of climbing on the rock.