

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 7:56:31 PM

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Comments: Dear USFS,

Please do not remove or prohibit fixed anchors for climbing. They are a climber's lifeline to safety and climbing in nature is a valid recreational activity. Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.

As babies we often climb before we can walk, and conversely, hiking is often a progression to alpinism. If hiking and walking are protected activities in wilderness, then so should climbing be a protected, valid means of experiencing wilderness. Furthermore, removing fixed anchors could mean more people need to be rescued without adequate means to get back down in an expeditious manner.

As someone who has volunteered to maintain trails in remote wilderness and hauled in a crosscut saw because chainsaws are not allowed in wilderness areas, I respect the rules around wilderness areas, but removing basic safety gear like fixed climbing anchors and bolts would be like removing all hiking signs and markers. It would be a disaster. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Polly