

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 8:06:45 PM

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Comments: Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my concern on the recent publication of the United States Forest Service's draft climbing management guidance. I would like to add my voice and state some changes that I would like to see to this draft proposal that will continue to maintain the highest wilderness standards- as has been the case for decades.

Climbing anchors have been a safe, non intrusive and essential part of the wilderness experience in the United States for over 70 years. The designation that these are "prohibited installations" would not only be detrimental to the safety of the climbers, but would go against current practices that have been established since 1964.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

Ask any park ranger and they will tell you that the current coalition of climbers around the country are some of the best stewards of land management and protection out there. Bar none, climbers care more about the wilderness and protecting it than almost any other group.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

I urge you to remove this language from your guidance and continue the rich legacy of fixed anchors in America's wilderness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Bevars