

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 9:10:53 PM

First name: Elaine

Last name: Newman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not prohibit bolts in Wilderness areas!

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system! It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Help keep me safe!

Elaine Newman

Climber for 20+ years

Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Sonoma State University