

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 9:26:11 PM

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Comments: This proposal isn't a good way climbing as "a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness."

A couple of thoughts:

Fixed anchors aren't "installations" any more than trails are. In fact, they're less destructive and noticeable than the trails everyone relies on in wilderness areas. It's incredibly easy to see a trail from an overlook or on a satellite photo. Many trails, even in our precious wilderness areas, have become wide from use and abuse. And yet, have you ever noticed even a single bolt from, say, the El Capitan meadow? If you determine that bolts are installations, then you also consider trails installations, too (to say nothing of the trail signs or blazes, which are also left behind).

It's absurd that you're considering prohibiting bolts when they've been perfectly acceptable for decades. You're "fixing" a problem that doesn't exist.

This proposal will also create safety problems by adding an unreasonable burden to the maintenance of existing routes and even establishment of new, clean routes. There's no way to plan where a bolt goes, or even if one is necessary until you're climbing the new route. Halfway up a cliff is no place for a park manager or committee to evaluate the placement of necessary safety equipment for a legitimate and appropriate activity.

It doesn't work to restrict climbing to "existing climbing opportunities." That would create a mess of different policies depending on individual land managers. I'm fully in support of protecting cultural and natural resources, but that should be done on individual bases, when analysis determines it's the best way to go. A blanket "no new climbing in the wilderness" ban is like doing surgery with a hatchet.

This is an unworkable plan that fundamentally obliterates climbing anywhere designated as wilderness. Decades-old routes---even in places deeply linked to climbing in American cultural imagination, like El Cap---would essentially be ruined for that activity. You can't have safe climbing without bolts and bolt replacement and there's no way to have land managers overseeing that. Climbing has been a big and sustainable part of wilderness recreation for decades. Climbers have been managing this very well on their own since the sport began.

This is not a good proposal. Please do not enact it.