

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 9:37:49 PM

First name: Joshua

Last name: Phillips

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I feel that prohibition of climbing anchors and bolting is a terrible idea. For both the national parks and forrest services. I feel it also an idea that is the equivalent of shooting themselves in the foot. The reason i say this is that you would be alienating a sizable use group that in general has a culture of sustainability and preservation when it comes to the wilderness areas. I have been climbing for over a decade and i know hundreds of other climbers who frequent these areas. You allways have bad apples in any use group but the majority of them in my experience are not only very concious of their own impact but that of others who do not frequent these areas as often. It is not uncommon to see climbers picking up trash left by weekend city campers or getting together for a few days to maintain a trail. Almost every trail ambassador i have met that sets up at a kiosks funded by the nationall forrests or parks to make sure patrons understand the rules like do not walk on the crypto, dont carve into the trees, pack it in pack it out, etc, are all climbers. Banning anchors is going to be devastating to this community and i dont see how this is going to be a win for anyone. Being a climber i am also friends with quite a few of the rangers and they often say they appreciate us being out there just so they can have ears and eyes on the ground because they are allready too underfunded to patrol these areas. So now we have this plan that is being proposed that not only undermines a network that is in general very helpful to both services but also adds more stress of trying to enforce new codes, as if the rangers didnt have enough on their plate as it was with idiots doing stupid things out in these areas. Please do not alienate your climbers we love the forrests and we love the parks and well work with yall to come to an agreement but I promise you that banning all anchors in these areas is not going to end well lets find another solution together. Thank you