

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 10:20:03 PM

First name: Jeff

Last name: Bosboom

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I have been a climber since 1976 and have climbed in many places in the US and abroad. Having become acquainted with proposed new regulations for using fixed anchors(including bolts and slings) by the NPS and the FS recently, I am compelled to write to you that I am 100% against these proposals!

These policies would overturn almost 60 years of sustainable wilderness climbing precedents and severely impact some of Americas iconic climbers in Yosemite, Rocky Mountain Park,Joshua Tree, the WindRivers and many others.

These new policies would classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations" in Wilderness areas. This new classification would apply to both new and existing anchors-hindering Wilderness exploration, threatening the existence of longstanding established routes, and obstructing climbers' ability to replace old, unsafe bolts. This is a huge blow to climbers that not only threatens America's climbing legacy but puts the safety of our community at risk.

These NPS and USFS proposals come at the same time that legislation to protect the legal and conditional use, placement, and maintenance of bolts and other fixed anchors is making its way through Congress. The bipartisan Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act and America's Outdoor Recreation Act moved through their respective committees with unanimous support in 2023. If this legislation passes, it would direct NPS, Bureau of Land Management, and USFS to write new national climbing management guidance that protects safe, sustainable access to Wilderness climbing.

The proposals from the NPS and FS are not considering that outlawing fixed anchors would make climbing more dangerous and eventually stop many people from climbing, which has become more popular than ever before.

Furthermore, regarding the FS proposal, 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. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Thank you for considering my feedback