

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 10:31:18 PM

First name: William

Last name: Hinckley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors play a crucial role in ensuring climbers' safety and do not constitute illegal installations under the Wilderness Act. Adhering to long-standing climbing regulations, which have permitted the careful use of fixed anchors for over fifty years, is more beneficial for maintaining the pristine nature of Wilderness areas while allowing for traditional, unrestricted climbing experiences.

It's unreasonable for federal bodies to suddenly enforce new rules banning climbing anchors in Wilderness areas, especially considering their long history of acknowledging, regulating, and endorsing the use of these anchors.

Banning fixed anchors will lead to safety hazards by hindering the regular upkeep of these anchors, a task traditionally handled by the climbing community. Climbers often face split-second safety decisions, and any regulatory process should not interfere with these critical choices. It's important to regulate fixed anchor maintenance in a manner that promotes safe replacements and avoids the potential elimination of climbing routes.

Restricting the use of fixed anchors also hinders appropriate exploration in Wilderness regions. It's vital for land authorities to permit climbers the flexibility to make spontaneous decisions, which are often necessary in navigating complex vertical landscapes.

Furthermore, banning fixed anchors risks damaging America's rich climbing heritage and could potentially wipe out some of the most significant climbing feats in history. Climbing policies should focus on safeguarding existing routes from being dismantled.