

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 10:58:46 PM

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Comments: As a long time climber, I have climbed at places that have fixed anchors, as well as many places that you must use natural anchors. I have seen time and again, the environmental impacts of using natural resources, such as trees, when it would have been far less harmful to allow fixed anchors responsibly installed to work. These are often safer for the climber, but definitely better for the environment as trees get damaged, causing them to prematurely die and then potentially cause erosion, etc. In Connecticut, there is basically no bolting allowed. I agree with this if there is adequate places to place protection that can be removed and reused. Unfortunately, places like Ragged Mountain that do not offer fixed anchors, the trees at the top of the cliff have been severely impacted, causing climbers to go further back into the woods to find adequate placements. This means not only are other trees being damaged, but it impacts day hikers who have to navigate a plethora of ropes strewn across the top of the cliff, causing potential tripping hazards and potentially harm to the protection the climbers have placed.

Please consider improvements to the guidance for fixed anchors in wilderness places.

Thank you,
Chris Elkow