

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 4:51:41 PM

First name: Christopher

Last name: Broe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As someone who loves the wilderness and views our national parks and protected areas as some of our country's greatest treasures, it is very important to me that they continue to be protected for generations to come. One of the greatest ways to experience the wilderness is to immerse yourself in it, to feel the water, to hike the trails, and to climb the peaks and explore the power and majesty they offer. Bolts, when placed and maintained properly, make the climbs safe and accessible. They are completely invisible to most hikers and other park users. I'll admit, even when i'm on a climb - sometimes I find it difficult to find them. But when I do, i'm so grateful to have something I can trust my life to.

I very much support the current guideline for bolting in the wilderness:

- * Climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness. However, any climbing use or related activity must be restricted or prohibited when its occurrence, continuation, or expansion would result in unacceptable impacts to wilderness resources or character, or interfere significantly with the experience of other park visitors.??
 - * The occasional placement of a fixed anchor for belay, rappel, or protection purposes does not necessarily impair the future enjoyment of wilderness or violate the Wilderness Act.
 - * The establishment of bolt-intensive face climbs is considered incompatible with wilderness preservation and management due to the concentration of human activity
 - * Climbing management strategies will address ways to control, and in some cases reduce, the number of fixed anchors to protect the park's wilderness resources??
 - * Fixed anchors or fixed equipment should be rare in wilderness. Authorization will be required for the placement of new fixed anchors or fixed equipment. Authorization may be required for the replacement or removal of existing fixed anchors or fixed equipment. The authorization process to be followed will be established at the park level and will be based on a consideration of resource issues (including the wilderness resource) and recreation opportunities.
 - * Authorization may be issued programmatically within the Wilderness Stewardship Plan or other activity-level plan, or specifically on a case-by-case basis, such as through a permit system.
 - * If unacceptable impacts are occurring in wilderness as a result of climbing, the park superintendent may deem it necessary to restrict or prohibit the placement of fixed anchors.??
 - * "Clean climbing" techniques should be the norm in wilderness.
 - * Practices such as gluing or chipping holds, and damaging or removing vegetation on or at the base of climbing routes, are prohibited by NPS regulations (36 CFR 2.1).
- The use of motorized equipment (e.g. power drills) is prohibited by the Wilderness Act and NPS regulations (36 CFR 2.12).
- * Climbers are encouraged to adopt Leave No Trace principles and practices for all climbing activities, including packing out all trash and human waste.