

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 5:37:55 PM

First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concerns and suggestions regarding the proposed climbing anchors guidance. Fixed anchors play a crucial role in climbers' safety systems, and prohibiting them under the Wilderness Act seems unreasonable.

1. Fixed anchors are integral to climbers' safety and are not prohibited under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies would better protect Wilderness character while allowing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.
2. It is unreasonable to create new guidance policies prohibiting climbing anchors when federal agencies have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.
3. Prohibiting fixed anchors may create safety issues by hindering regular maintenance. In-the-moment decisions are crucial for safety, and any authorization process should not impede these decisions.
4. Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas, limiting climbers' ability to make necessary decisions when navigating complex terrain.
5. The prohibition of fixed anchors could jeopardize America's climbing legacy and erase some of the world's greatest achievements. Climbing management policy should protect existing routes from removal.
6. Restricting the establishment of new routes on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and may create confusion. Non-Wilderness climbing policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless analyses determine restrictions are necessary.

I urge you to consider these points and work towards a solution that balances safety, preservation of Wilderness character, and the rich climbing heritage of our nation.