

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 7:40:13 PM

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Comments: As a climber, while I think the authors of this project have good intentions, they have not considered all of the risks and issues that come up with a blanket statement proposal like this.

Climbing is only growing in this country with the upshot of climbing gyms, training facilities and media. There are thousands of routes in wilderness areas. A blanket law that requires everyone of these routes to undergo local authoritative assessment through the NFS as to whether routes can continue to exist or be made safe with anchor replacement is not feasible unless the NFS suddenly allocates a lot of funding to hire and educate those necessary to make these assessments in a timely manner.

Climbing will continue regardless of this law. It is like telling people they can't go running outside. Humans have a right to move in the outdoors. It makes everyone healthier, happier, and ultimately makes this country better for it. Climbers are also a relatively small population entailing a small impact.

The issue if anchors can not be maintained is one of safety. If local climbing organization (who maintain most crags and climbing areas) and climbers can not replace unsafe bolts and anchors as needed, this proposal is creating very dangerous situation at climbing areas that could result in injury and death.

I do not believe that is what this project intends. Instead of changing the way climbing anchors have been overseen for decades and essentially stopping much needed anchor replacement for safety, this proposal needs to be reassessed. Fixed anchors that are already in the rock are not doing more damage, and the safer a climb is the less impact their will be since less experienced climbers will not be adding unnecessary bolts, webbing, other damaging things to a climb to make it safe.

Also, current and prevalent climbing ethic looks down on any type of damage and chipping to the rock. Clean climbing (the use of removable climbing protection where possible) is alive and well. I suggest the Forest service work with climbing organizations like the access fund and American Alpine club, as well as local climbing organizations to form a better dialogue over concerns over rock climbing in wilderness areas before moving forward with this proposal.