

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 8:46:56 PM

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Comments: I've been a long time outdoor climber and have climbed in many locations in the United states over the past 10 years. Fixed anchors and fixed gear on climbs make for a safe and easy way to enjoy many of these classic areas with minimal impact on the environment. The vast majority of non-climbers do not even see the fixed anchors on the rock unless you are looking for them. In that regard, the inclusion of fixed gear on cliff faces do not impact the use or enjoyment of non-climbers. The gear helps us quickly climb the cliff safely without the use of traditional gear that could break or scar the rock in other ways. Restricting new route development from using fixed gear and anchors will add more wear and tear to the current routes as more people take to outdoor climbing. Route development needs to keep up with new climbers.

\*Fixed anchors are an essential piece of a climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following the current climbing rules that allow use of fixed anchors for more than a 50+ years will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for a safer Wilderness climbing experience.

\*It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Most climbers know how to check these anchors for unsafe conditions and route developers have been using the fixed anchors to create more fool proof ways to safely get down off a route. Why change something that has worked for decades.

\*Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

\*Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

\*Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.