Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 8:57:00 PM

First name: Brett Last name: Sather Organization:

Title:

Comments: This comment is in regards to the prohibition of climbing anchors and implements on wilderness land. The user accessibility that is offered from bolted routes is an undeniably a draw for climbing participants. More users in wilderness yields more support, awareness, and active participation of citizens not to mention the active draw potential for international visitors which has provided many areas with tourism economy income. Bolted and anchored routes provide easier access for climbers of lesser means as traditional gear racks are far more expensive than a set of quick draws. Bolted and anchored routes also increase safety as traditional climbing is potentially higher risk. Anchors provide for safer accessibility and safer rappel routes than on the fly creations.

Additionally, bolted routes are not obtrusive to the eye and are often difficult to spot on rock. They do not take away from the wilderness experience in terms of aesthetics. While poor route implementation is not completely impossible, the barrier to entry for designing, installing, and creating routes is one that mandates the seeking knowledge that lends itself to proper route creation.