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Comments:

I oppose your designation of fixed anchors as prohibited by the USFS. This will stop climbing on wilderness lands in any capacity. It would be like telling people it is OK to backpack, but you cannot use hiking boots/shoes or a backpack. Climbing Anchors have a deep history in the national parks. I have been climbing in the wilderness since 1990, and there are no climbs I could have done without the anchors there. If you categorize fixed anchors as you are proposing, this will decimate climbing within the wilderness and beyond. Please do not do this.

I understand the need to regulate this activity, so I propose that you consider a committee-based system with local and national climbing organizations to help control and advise the park service on future development as it comes up. An excellent example of this is the Flatirons Climbing Council in Boulder, CO. This is just one of many such examples across the country. We are working with the Arkansas State Parks to adopt a similar policy in Arkansas. The ASP staff, Access Fund, Arkansas Climbers Coalition, and I are working on this together. I would love to help you with this structure alongside Park staff, the Access Fund, the American Alpine Club, and the climbing community.

Please allow us all an opportunity to work together to create a sensible and reasonable system that will support the parks and climbing community within the wilderness and beyond.