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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This policy change should have been more widely advertised. I was lucky to accidentally discover it.

2355.03 - Policy

5. Regarding fixed anchors and equipment being permissible in wilderness, hopefully top roping and down climbing are also being considered as viable alternatives to fixed anchors and equipment.

6. Regarding fixed anchors and equipment being consistent with principles of wilderness stewardship, they are a trammeling of wilderness and violate leave no trace principles.

a. Removable pitons may be considered by some as temporary anchors, but they get left behind for a variety of reasons, and damage the rock resource and the climbing experience.

b. I disagree with the statement that the placement of a fixed anchor or fixed equipment does not necessarily impair the future enjoyment of wilderness or violate the Wilderness Act. Fixed anchors and equipment are a trammeling of wilderness and violate leave no trace principles.

The establishment of bolt-intensive climbing opportunities are definitely incompatible with the preservation of wilderness character.

7. Hopefully the Forest Service has oversight of climber placement and replacement of fixed anchors and fixed equipment.

The Forest Serviceshould label the fixed anchors and equipment it installs for emergency operations.

11. Via ferratas and related activities should not be located anywhere near climbing areas.

13. In my experience, stewardship programs are accompanied by conflicts of interest and attached strings. I do not support their use. Instead, the Forest Service should adequately fund and staff this program.

2355.04a

3. When you coordinate with national representatives of climbing organizations, please realize that most climbers are not members of any climbing organizations. Please do not leave the rest of us out of the process or discussion.

4. same as 3.

2355.04b

1. Regarding fixed anchors and equipment being consistent with principles of wilderness stewardship, they are a trammeling of wilderness and violate leave no trace principles. Wild and scenic river corridors should be protected from fixed anchors and equipment in the same way.

2355.04c

3. Please do not leave the rest of climbers out of the process or discussion.

2355.04d

8. Hopefully other cooperators includes all climbers.

9. The climbing experience should also be protected. This includes having the ability to learn good judgment and route finding skills. Any kind of permanent equipment and the use of chalk, all work against having that climbing learning experience.

2355.04e

4. Hopefully other cooperators includes all climbers.

2355.21

Hopefully climbing areas outside wilderness get the same protection from fixed anchors and equipment. The Forest Service should be protecting resources on all lands under its management. Fixed anchors and equipment damage the rock resource and climbing experience.

Please do not leave the rest of climbers out of the process or discussion.

1. Visual impacts of climbing equipment should include chalk.

8. Also consider adverse impacts on the climbing experience. This includes having the ability to learn good judgment and route finding skills. Any kind of permanent equipment and the use of chalk, all work against having that climbing learning experience.

12. Regarding fixed anchors and equipment being permissible in wilderness, hopefully top roping and down climbing are also being considered as viable alternatives to fixed anchors and equipment.

2355.31

1. Regarding fixed anchors and equipment, top roping and down climbing should be considered as viable alternatives to fixed anchors and equipment.

2. The climbing experience should also be protected. This includes having the ability to learn good judgment and route finding skills. Any kind of permanent protection and the use of chalk all work against having that climbing learning experience.

3. Also consider adverse impacts on the climbing experience, as noted in 2. above.

Fixed anchors and equipment should not be allowed where adequate protection is available, or where a route can be, or potentially can be, free climbed or climbed with removable aid.

7. The Forest Service should label the fixed anchors and equipment it installs for emergency operations.

Techniques such as chipping and use of glue, epoxy, or other fixatives for hand holds and foot holds should be prohibited and punished. The use of motorized drills should be supervised, at the least.

2355.32

1. This paragraph appears to allow climbers to be administrators and install fixed anchors and equipment. I hope that is not the case. The "outstanding opportunities" loophole is too subjective, and should be removed. There are plenty of other outstanding opportunities on the continent.

"... directing climbers toward designated climbing opportunities with fixed anchors and fixed equipment to protect sensitive resources..."

I'm okay with this as long as fixed anchors and equipment are not placed for the sole purpose of providing another place for climbers to go.

"... and approving fixed anchors and fixed equipment in areas where impacts on the rock face are occurring due to the use of rock hammers to chip hand holds or foot holds into the rock."

Modification of the rock resource should be strictly prohibited and punished. How does installing fixed equipment in areas where climbers are using rock hammers to chip holds, stop this problem?

2. A Minimum Requirements Analysis should consider top roping and down climbing as viable alternatives to fixed anchors and equipment.

5. A Minimum Requirements Analysis should consider top roping and down climbing as viable alternatives to fixed anchors and equipment.

2355.4

When encouraging volunteer participation, please advertise widely since most climbers are not members of any climbing organization.