

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 10:21:44 PM

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Comments: Fixed anchors stand as a crucial linchpin in the safety net of climbers, an indispensable component that significantly bolsters their security in the rugged wilderness. It's imperative to emphasize that these anchors are not rebellious "installations" under the Wilderness Act; rather, they are a sanctioned element within the existing climbing policies, a tradition upheld for over half a century. Aligning with these established climbing norms not only safeguards the Wilderness character but also nurtures a space for primitive and unconfined climbing experiences.

The notion of federal agencies introducing novel guidelines to universally ban Wilderness climbing anchors is not just unwarranted; it's an affront to decades of managed, authorized, and permitted use of fixed anchors. This retroactive prohibition overlooks the climbing community's responsible and meticulous maintenance efforts, casting an unnecessary shadow on the crucial safety decisions that often demand split-second responses. Any approval process should not become a hindrance but rather facilitate a smooth, expedited replacement of fixed anchors, ensuring the preservation of climbing routes.

Beyond mere safety concerns, a blanket prohibition on fixed anchors poses a serious threat to the spirit of exploration within Wilderness areas. Climbers ought to be granted the freedom to navigate complex vertical terrain with the agility required for in-the-moment decisions. Land managers must recognize and embrace the need for this flexibility in exploring the Wilderness.

Let's not forget that prohibiting fixed anchors jeopardizes the very essence of America's climbing legacy, putting at risk some of the world's most remarkable climbing feats. Climbing management policies should serve as guardians, staunchly defending existing routes from unwarranted removal, and in doing so, ensure the enduring legacy of climbing in our great nation.