

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 11:08:50 PM

First name: Jorel

Last name: Allegro

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an avid wilderness traveler, aspiring alpine climber and public lands conservation advocate - it distrubs me to hear about our federal agencies potentially taking such a literal interpretation of the Wilderness Act in an effort to seemingly effectively ban fixed anchors in our nation's wilderness areas.

Climbing and mountaineering are methods of traversing mountains and crags as old as the national parks & forest systems themselves. Improvements in safety gear technology, evolution of style and growth of the sports have resulted in increased stewardship of many popular climbing areas around the USA. Climbers are some of the most staunch advocates of wilderness conservation and public lands access by nature. As climbing has gained popularity, there have been growing pains and it is understandable our public lands managers wish to regulate the installation & maintenance of fixed anchors more differently.

Outright banning or severely restricting the installation & maintenance of fixed climbing anchors including expansion bolts in quality rock is not the solution, however. I urge the Forest Service to reconsider taking such extreme action and work with Congress and advocate organizations to codify fixed climbing anchors not as "installations" but as necessary tools for safe travel & access to our nation's unique and beautiful climbing areas.

Thank you for considering my comment to this important issue.

Jorel C Allegro

Bishop, CA