

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:58:01 AM

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Comments: As someone with a conservative risk approach who discovered climbing, fixed anchors are a critical to my, and to the climbing community's, exploration. Fixed anchors allow me and so many climbers to safely explore new areas.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

The climbing community has robust training and mentorship programs to maintain anchors to keep climbers safe while respecting the land and relationships with land managers. Please allow the climbing community to enable continued safe exploration.