

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:47:35 AM

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to object to this proposed change in policy around fixed climbing anchor placement. The climbing community consists of people with a deep love of our wilderness spaces, and a strong ethic of environmental protection. At the same time, the sport can pose real risks, and the current status quo allows for judicious and minimal use of protective fixed anchors which minimise environmental impacts while ensuring an adequate level of safety for those participating in these activities.

This change to a forbidden-by-default policy would have negative consequences for every stakeholder. The agencies would be loaded with more work in processing requests for clarification, permission and exception. Climbers would be forced to adopt more dangerous practices, even choosing between safer emergency descent options and breaking the law; or else would be herded into a smaller number of regions where increased traffic would risk greater environmental impacts. The risk of accidents and even fatalities would rise, as climbers are forced to use makeshift anchors, or descent terrain with avalanche danger to avoid running afoul of this regulation. The resultant additional rescues would be an expense in time, money, public good will, all for the sake of an unnecessary and over-broad policy change. None of this benefits the public at large or the traditional owners of these lands.

I sincerely hope that this proposed change is reconsidered.

Sincerely,

Kirill Talanine