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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 1. I have been a Rock Climber since 1992, and have personally guided hundreds of people over the years for the first time in areas throughout the Arkansas National Forest System.

2. I agree that there are areas throughout the countries national and state areas that could benefit from regulation, but not all.

3. Most areas to my knowledge have been respected through active climbing and forest organizations who work to protect access for climbing.

4. Based on my experience over the years, it appears there is a larger percentage of climbers who use fixed anchor systems to climb rather than traditional methods, and limiting or taking away this method of fixed protection could lead to a higher rate of injury as sport transitions to trad.

5. I've seen situations where Trad gear has scared and damaged rock more than fixed systems.

6. In most areas where fixed anchors are used, they are done so in a Manor that only rock climbers would know they exist. Most non-climbing visitors don't even know what to look for and rarely can spot them. Even climbers have difficulty finding them when visiting new areas. If there are areas around the country where proliferation of anchors are happening in areas that should be protected due to tribal or other historical concerns, then regulate in coordination with known organizations to help protect all interests.

7. Leaving permitting up to the discretion of the authority in each jurisdiction can have negative impacts on both sides of the fence due to prejudices. Broadening the decision making authority allowing engagement of the broader community representing all sides is the best way to work out regulations that fit to each area, as all areas are created differently.

8. Adding regulations to areas that have been self governed not only creates opportunity for increased violations on public land, but is tasking on underfunded agencies adding increased cost for enforcement of these new regulations.

9. Listen to the organizations who are representing climbers in this country and around the world. This is a huge and growing recreational industry, and throwing a blanket regulation as this could have catastrophic effects in ways that I feel none of us could imagine.

10. I believe in keeping our wilderness wild, but restricting the placement of fixed anchors to protect those who choose to explore the wild in ways that not all people do, is placing a greater risk of safety in the wild, that will lead to more injuries, an increase in emergency responses, and impact a large industry that many people who don't climb enjoy going out just to see adventures in action.

11. I'm against the proposed regulation and will only support that which is endorsed by reputable climbing and outdoor organizations.