

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:48:58 AM

First name: Katherine

Last name: Kelly

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am submitting my input on the proposed policies regarding anchors in Wilderness. This proposed policy could be improved in several ways.

Anchors are a critical part of safe climbing and do not negatively affect or detract from the experience of Wilderness. As a climber looking for fixed anchors, I often find them hard to see. The climbing community takes pride in minimizing impact of fixed anchors, particularly in Wilderness by limiting number and visibility. But they are an essential safety feature.

There is no need for increased regulation or banning of anchors as the current system has been working for decades.

Bolts are a critical safety feature. Removing or banning anchor replacement will create significant safety hazards, particularly should someone start up a route anticipating safe and secure anchors that have been established for decades only to find that the anchors have been removed or have not been updated appropriately.

Climbing is an important human-powered mode of exploration in Wilderness that would become inaccessible with changes to allowable anchors, making it challenging to preserve the rich history and accessibility that Americans have experienced for decades.

Restricting new route development should be done on a case-by-case basis based on specific cultural, ecological, and natural resources impacted in specific areas rather than by a broad restriction of route development.