

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2023 5:57:01 AM

First name: John

Last name: Lang

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness areas both within and outside of the national forest have greatly affected my life. Climbing within those areas has provided a source of recreation, an appreciation and love of the outdoor, scenic views with unparalleled beauty, an educational framework to learn of the historical ascents of previous climbers, explorers, and adventurers, the ability to learn the tradition carried out by those before, a place to stay healthy and fit, a respect for natural environments, inspiration to educate myself on different ecosystems, has given me a love of the scientific fields of geography, biology, botany, etc, and has given me a desire to preserve the beauty they hold.

That being said, climbing anchors are a fundamental piece necessary for those such as myself to have safe access to portions of outdoor (wilderness or not) areas that would otherwise be unreachable, thus limiting my ability to access what experiences and value they hold.

I wholeheartedly believe that climbers voices should be heard, included, and sought out when forming any sort of legislation when it comes to fixed anchors and fixed equipment. As a climber, I share in the mission of the national forest service to preserve the natural state by minimizing impact while simultaneously allowing access. I hope the national forest will also agree that local climbing coalitions are a valuable and necessary resource for accomplishing this mission properly.

I understand the need for legislation regarding fixed anchors but I want to stress the importance of working alongside our community representatives who will represent those who will be most directly affected by such changes.

Additionally, "I wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of the Access Fund and the Black Hills Climbers Coalition in preserving climbing access and advocating for responsible bolt placement. Their dedication to maintaining climbing access and environmental conservation is crucial, and I stand behind their initiatives."