Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/21/2023 12:21:09 AM

First name: Aaron Last name: Barnett Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a member of the climbing community I have an interest in the continued responsible use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are a part of a sustainable wilderness experience. Fixed anchors have been a sustainable part of the climbing experience in some form well before the writing of the Wilderness Act of 1964. I believe responsible use of fixed anchors greatly improve the safety of the climbing community. Forest service employees are safer as an extension of this because of the reduced strain on forest rescue services. A moratorium on the creation of new fixed anchors and the removal of existing anchors would likely lead to more accidents. The prohibition would also lead to disenfranchisement of a large community who is heavily invested in, and passionate about, the protection of our wilderness areas. The disenfranchisement of the climbing community could lead to unintended consequences. I hope the forest service can allow the continued practice for fixed climbing anchors being used, replaced, and maintained in designated wilderness areas.