Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 7:18:27 PM First name: Camille Last name: Morales Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a burgeoning climber, this rule would shatter my goals and dreams that I have for sustainably and respectfully climbing in our country's national forest systems. Climbing has brought so many people closer to nature and has sparked an appreciation for and lifelong passion for protecting our country's wilderness. This rule would detract from one of the biggest hobbies that brings people to the national forests in the first place. I think it is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system. I think that people are still going to find ways to climb, so the only thing this rule would do would be to cause more accidents, most likely costing lives and the forest service hundreds of thousands of dollars. PLEASE do not go through with this. Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.