Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 7:13:18 PM

First name: Torsten Last name: Lyon Organization:

Title:

Comments: America's public lands and Wilderness areas are a national treasure and a resource that is unmatched by any other nation in the world. Visitors enjoy the lands in many different ways, including families introducing their children to the wonders of hiking and camping, fishing, and climbers ascending climbing routes. Each of these user groups require safety equipment and guidelines. Please do not prohibit the use of fixed anchors for climbing. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements on our incredible public lands. Climbing management policy should protect existing routes from removal, allowing them to be safely enjoyed by current day visitors.