Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 7:36:24 PM First name: Lizbeth Last name: Quesnel Organization:

Title:

Comments: Do not prohibit fixed anchor installations or establishment of new climbing routes throughout wilderness land. Requiring certain conditions to be met, analyses to be completed, would delay essential and safety processes that would result in failure of equipment, work arounds in an un-safe manner, and ultimately result in more rescue needs of the USFS, more accidents, and other concerns directly impacting the USFS. 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. Changing a definition of "installation" will result in greater expenses to the USFS, challenges in enforcement, and more accidents in Wilderness areas. The ability to climb, allow fixed anchors in needed situations enables an exploration of the great Wilderness of the United States, which has been a founding principal of the USFS. 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.