

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 10:49:51 PM

First name: Benjamin

Last name: Collett

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was very disappointed to hear about the proposal to limit climbing in Forest Service lands by radically reducing fixed anchor establishment on public lands. Rock climbing is an activity that has exploded in popularity over the last decade. The fact that there is an effort to reduce climbing access at the time the sport is growing in popularity. Climbing has the ability to help people with the natural world which has a far more positive environmental impact than the negative impact of the activity itself.

Improper regulation of fixed anchors has safety implications as climbers rely on strong fixed anchors for their safety. Regulation that requires removal or prevents maintenance of existing fixed anchors will result in significant safety issues such as anchor failure and people getting in very dangerous situation, relying on safety equipment that is not present.

Additionally, many people have made life decisions such as where to live based on access to public lands with existing policies related to recreation. Diminishing access to recreational opportunities on those public lands greatly impacts the quality of life for those of us who have made such decisions based on those opportunities.