Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 1:53:06 AM First name: Nick Last name: Taylor Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am concerned that prohibiting fixed anchors will increase danger to climbers in the backcountry. I personally had a friend die while rappelling off old/ unsafe rope anchors that broke in an area where fixed, safe anchors are discouraged. Fixed metal anchors are ideal for safely escaping a climb in such situations, especially on popular, well-traveled routes. These safe anchors should be encourage and also maintained to prevent such tragedies. The climbing community has grants in place to make the cost of these replacements easy and climbers are often very happy to replace old hardware on beloved routes when allowed. Please continue to allow climbers to include and maintain hardware (placed without power tools and only when necessary for safety) in our wilderness areas. Setting limits on how much hardware is too much should be discussed with the user groups.