

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 2:38:00 AM

First name: Harrison

Last name: Beauregard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My wife and I are avid traditional and sport climbers, and the proposed fixed anchor policies will significantly reduce climbing access in wilderness areas and corresponding to a drop in local tourism at climbing destinations. We got engaged and married during climbing trips to USFS wilderness areas, so this matter is near to my heart,.

As someone who focuses much of my free and vacation time, on climbing objectives this is unfortunate to see the potential huge loss to our community. Safe anchors are critical to preventing accidents and ensuring access to all climbers, not just those willing to sacrifice gear or absorb fines thus creating a financial barrier to entry. The excessive time that the MRA process will likely take will prevent the timely replacement of unsafe and failing anchors, endangering climbers lives.

Additionally, the MRA process as written puts too much onus on overburdened park superintendents to review new or existing anchors, rather the example of Yosemite climbing-specific park rangers could be seen as a reasonable alternative model to the proposed MRA system. Climbing rangers would possess the subject-matter expertise to accurately assess the appropriateness of installing or replacing fixed hardware. Alternately park superintendents could partner with local climbing stewardship organizations to assess existing and new anchors, since they'd again possess the subject matter expertise to make appropriate judgements on fixed hardware. As currently written, the MRA requires too much bureaucracy to preserve and install of sensible and safe fixed climbing anchors.