Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 1:00:37 AM First name: Tavish Last name: Hansen Organization:

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Comments: I have worked as a climbing and mountaineering guide on public lands and wilderness throughout the Western United States for my entire adult life, and the fixed anchors on climbing routes that are the object of these proposals are essential not only to my continued job security, but to activities in the wilderness that are inherently important and valuable. Through my years of guiding, I have seen that the ability of people to move safely through steep, rugged wilderness lanscapes provided by the instalation of small, low impact climbing bolts creates a very important opportunity for powerful and lifechanging experiences. These critical pieces of protection have allowed me to take individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life through countless otherwise unreachable mountainous landscapes, showing them the true privilege of what it means to be an American and the wild places it allows us access to. I have seen people grow kinder, stronger, braver, and vastly more aware of the natural environment through these endeavors. To collectively cast every one of the small fixed pieces of protection that we occasionally rely on for safe and low impact passage through the mountains as altogether damaging and detrimental would be to threaten a nearly 100 year legacy of human experiences in mountains and vertical wildernesses that has undoubtedly shaped American people for the better, and remove the potential for so many future Americans to share and grow from these same experiences. In the vast number of wilderness areas in the American West where I have spent time climbing and guiding, I have seen local land management departments acting diligently and responsibly to manage the impacts of new and existing climbing routes, and the fixed anchors that often go along with them. There is hardly an issue in wilderness areas of the small bolts climbers use in the rock becoming too widespread, as climbers themselves already tend to have their own strong ethic of leaving minimal impact and only using fixed anchors when absolutely necessary, especially in wilderness areas. These issues do not need to blanketed under a widespread prohibition, but instead could continue to be well managed under localized permitting processes for replacement or addition of new fixed anchors and active participation of agencies in the management of climbing's impacts.