Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 3:31:43 PM First name: Jessie Last name: Boas Organization: Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposal to ban climbing anchors in wilderness areas. As an avid climber and a passionate advocate for responsible outdoor recreation, I strongly oppose this decision.

Climbing anchors play a crucial role in ensuring safety while preserving the natural environment. They are essential for climbers to navigate and enjoy the wilderness safely, minimizing the impact on the surrounding landscape. Instead of banning these anchors outright, I urge you to consider alternative solutions that balance conservation efforts with the needs of outdoor enthusiasts.

I understand the importance of preserving the wilderness and protecting delicate ecosystems. However, a blanket ban on climbing anchors could have adverse effects, potentially driving climbers to seek less regulated areas or resort to makeshift, unsafe methods. This could pose greater risks to both climbers and the environment.

I encourage a collaborative approach involving climbers, conservationists, and relevant authorities to find a solution that maintains the integrity of wilderness areas while allowing responsible climbing practices.

The wilderness holds immense value for outdoor enthusiasts, providing opportunities for recreation, personal growth, and appreciation of nature. It's crucial to preserve this access while ensuring the long-term sustainability of these precious environments.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposal and engage in dialogue with the climbing community to find a balanced and mutually beneficial solution.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I hope for a collaborative resolution that preserves our wilderness areas for generations to come.