

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/5/2024 2:48:21 AM

First name: Grady

Last name: Tibboel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Considering fixed anchors as "installations" does not align with restrictions/prohibitions on installations in wilderness areas. They are essential to safe climbing experiences in the wilderness, and climbing falls neatly within the types of activities intended for wilderness areas. There is not a compelling reason to change decades of precedent for allowing, authorizing, and managing fixed anchors. Of course increased use of wilderness areas requires responsibility on the part of climbers; but the same is true for every user and user group of wilderness areas. Restrictions on the maintenance and upkeep of existing anchors is especially troubling, whether those restrictions be in policy, or through bureaucratic processes (like MRAs) that are not staffed, funded, or otherwise aligned to resolve requests in a reasonable amount of time. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.