

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2024 6:12:31 PM

First name: Cat

Last name: Runner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources. The existence of fixed gear greatly impacts a climber's ability to safely recreate in the wilderness and the prohibition of fixed gear will impact the risks and safety of climbing. The USFS and local Search and Rescue will likely experience a rise in emergency calls because these safety systems have been removed and these organizations are likely not in a position to properly manage the unnecessary and avoidable stress they will experience.