Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2024 5:05:12 AM First name: Ethan Last name: Pieniazek Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a teacher and climber who recently moved to Colorado from Houston for a better quality of life I want to ensure the safe and responsible use of fixed anchors in forests remains available to climbers. My appreciation for the careful handling of the wilderness is deep-rooted, and I endorse the idea that fixed climbing anchors play a role in preserving the very nature of what it means to explore the wilderness. It is my suggestion that the current climbing guidelines be re-evaluated and modified to honor the longstanding tradition and established norms, which have been in place for over sixty years, allowing for the use, restoration, and management of fixed anchors within the wilderness. Bolts (at at the bare minimum in the form of a permanent anchor) are necessary for climbers to have a safe experience enjoying what this planet has to offer. Using camouflaged bolts and replacing tat/slings left on trees and boulders may be a sensible approach that aims to keep the climbing community safe while also cutting down on the impact the sport may have on the environment. Generally, from my experience climbers as a whole seem to be relatively conscious of their impact on the environment and generally work to try and leave places better than they found them compared to other recreational groups. It would be heartbreaking to take away and gate keep something that brings so many others joy, purpose, and well-being, especially in a day and age where we need it the most.