Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2024 5:44:18 AM First name: Shaun Last name: Winter Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am very opposed to the proposed designation of all fixed anchors as "installations". I have camped and hiked in wilderness areas across our country since I was a small boy, and believe that these spaces are the most valuable birthright that we inherit as Americans. These spaces are the best thing about our country, and it is imperative that we maintain them, and that we maintain access to them. Wilderness is not meant to be kept in a jar, but protected from development so that all can enjoy its splendor. Classifying fixed anchors as installations is a perversion of the clear language of the Wilderness Act. Fixed anchors are nearly invisible to the untrained eye and have little to no impact on local ecology. Outlawing them, especially after granting that climbing is a legitimate use of wilderness, is an arbitrary decision that capriciously casts out a single user group. Fixed anchors are necessary for the safety of climbers. Period.