

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/12/2024 4:24:46 PM

First name: Bryan

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors in Wilderness/national forests should remain available to the climbing community. I respect and advocate for the responsible use of Wilderness areas and believe that fixed anchors can be a component of a sustainable Wilderness experience. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the practice and precedent of the last 60+ years-that fixed anchors for climbing can be used, replaced, and maintained in those areas. as population grows and climate change worsens we will more than ever need to be able to climb in a diversity of locations in a diversity of styles. Tiny fixed anchors that are practically invisible do not impact the experience of other wilderness users at present, and that will not change. not to mention they literally save lives, especially when weather changes suddenly or someone is injured. If you remove existing anchors you can expect injury, death and rescues (and rescue costs) at orders of magnitude greater than the status quo. Climbers of all people support wilderness areas and their opinions should be given consideration during this process. Thank you!