

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/13/2024 3:43:02 PM

First name: Angela

Last name: Hawse

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing with many concerns regarding the draft climbing management guidance for public comment you issued in November.

I am a professional mountain guide, internationally certified. My livelihood for the past 30 years has focused on providing climbing experiences to the public on our public lands. As a guide and steward of our public lands through my work and personal advocacy, I recognize the increasing number of climbers are a real concern, however your plan to regarding fixed anchors poses a real risk on established routes which will likely result in severe injuries and even death if implemented.

If implemented, the guidance would create significant safety issues, threaten world-class climbing routes (many were established prior to wilderness designations), obstruct appropriate wilderness exploration, and burden land managers and climbers with unnecessary red tape.

Fixed anchors are essential pieces of the climber's safety system that allow people to safely and sustainably access vertical terrain. Without fixed anchors, many of the wildest and most inspiring places in America would become inaccessible to the American public.

Thank you for hearing my concerns and taking them into consideration.

Respectfully,

Angela Hawse

IFMGA Mountain Guide