Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/14/2024 5:45:17 PM First name: Ross Last name: Bullington Organization:

Title:

Comments: The new draft management plan is unrealistic, unsafe, and ignorant of climbing practices. The proposed permitting process for the placement and maintenance of new bolts, would put undue burden on land managers and climbers alike. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of a climber's safety system and the inability to place or maintain bolts in the moment could have deadly consequences. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal. 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.