Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/14/2024 6:44:42 PM

First name: Lindsey
Last name: Mathewson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character more than bans because without fixed hardware, outdoor recreators will be forced to use trees as anchors, causing tree death and erosion. Bolts and other fixed hard-ware is less impactful than abandoned soft gear.

Further, with a ban, existing anchors and hardware won't be able to be maintained/replaced. This is a serious safety concern.