

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/16/2024 10:04:15 PM

First name: Carol

Last name: Garfinkel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a 65-year-old rock climber who lives in New York State and has traveled in many other parts of the United States to enjoy climbing in our Parks, Wilderness areas and national forests. As you establish climbing management guidance, I urge you to reconsider making fixed anchors "prohibited installations." Fixed anchors are a necessary part of climbers' safety systems. As we have done for more than 60 years, climbers need to be able to maintain fixed anchors and replace them when needed. Decisions on this need to be made in the moment, especially in the wilderness, and should not be impeded by a permitting process. Please revise your climbing guidance to reflect the established precedent that fixed anchor maintenance must be managed in a way that incentivizes safe and timely anchor replacement. and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Additionally, Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is confusing. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless analyses determine that there is a specific need to protect cultural or natural resources in that location.