Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 8:27:51 PM First name: Geoffrey Last name: Slater Organization: Title:

Comments: Treating climbing anchors as fixed installations akin to a building or road and subjecting climbing anchors to MRA will effectively end climbing in wilderness areas. Climbing and wilderness areas have a long history and climbing has existed before wilderness areas were established by law.

If every climbing hardware placement is subject to MRA, then no hardware will be placed. There will not be the resources to conduct these reviews and the reviews will be subject to the determination of individuals without the knowledge of the safety and utility of climbing hardware. Limiting or banning fixed hardware will make it impossible to climb in wilderness areas safely.

The current rules banning power drills in wilderness areas work well - there is not an overdevelopment of climbing in wilderness areas due to the effort required to both hike to and work on rock in remote areas. The growth of climbing in the US has led to more people climbing in wilderness areas, but other activities in wilderness areas have increased at a similar pace.

Subjecting climbing anchors to MRA will just make climbing less safe and create confusion.

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.