

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/20/2024 10:33:09 PM

First name: Amory

Last name: Cervarich

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am asking that you reconsider the prohibition of fixed anchors in wilderness areas. I agree that climbing should be managed in a manner that helps protect cultural and natural resources but do not think the current draft language is the right direction to go. I ask that you use the Protect America's Rock Climbing Act (PARCA) language as a point of reference and draft language that is consistent with PARCA.

Imagine what the MRA process would look like for establishing groundbreaking achievements in climbing like Tommy Caldwell's development of the Dawn Wall. The project took over 7 years to complete. It would be impossible to know how many fixed anchors might be required to comply with the MRA process as Caldwell wasn't even sure of the exact line in the beginning.

The MRA process would also limit the average climber's ability to safely ascend and descend. Fixed anchors are essential for safe climbing. Though only a small percentage of climbers place fixed anchors, all climbers depend on fixed anchors to some degree. An absence of fixed anchors increases climbing's risk factor, limits the accessibility of certain climbs to a small fraction of climbers, and, in some cases, makes any climbing activity impossible.

Please reconsider the classification of fixed anchors as "installations" and revise draft language for consistency PARCA.