

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 2:52:51 PM

First name: Joe

Last name: Varela

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose these measures for the following reasons:

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.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system. Prohibiting them means existing anchors will not be able to be regularly maintained, putting climbers and the public at risk.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have been allowed and effectively managed by local land managers for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.