

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 6:12:50 PM

First name: Lorna

Last name: Illingworth

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it concerns,

I have climbed at climbing areas on USFS land for many years as well as climbing in many other wilderness and non-wilderness areas across the United States. I also worked in Search and Rescue for NPS for 5 years.

I am writing to you about the proposed fixed anchor prohibition. Fixed anchors are very important for climbing safety.

Fixed anchors have been allowed in Wilderness and non-wilderness areas for many years and they are much less impact than temporary sling anchors and much safer. I have climbed in Patagonia, Argentina, for example, and there are several instances of climbers dying while rappelling off unsafe anchors.

I urge you to maintain the interpretation that fixed anchors are allowed in Wilderness and non-wilderness areas. The ability to have safe anchors for getting down off routes is very important.

Please keep climbing in America safe.

Lorna