

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 2:15:52 AM

First name: Eric

Last name: Ardissono

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Eric Ardissono and I oppose the proposed procedures for fixed anchors in Wilderness areas as presented in the proposed policy. Climbing is a low-impact dispersed recreation option that draws users to areas unreachable and mostly unnoticed by other user groups. Fixed anchors are small and virtually invisible to the naked eye beyond a couple hundred feet, and are critical to the safety of this user group. Furthermore, regulation of new anchors through existing environmental impact procedures is unreasonable due to the remote nature of the anchors, and the process by which most are installed. The climbing community has deeply engrained ethics to keep overuse of anchors in check and I am not aware of an instance where that has failed to uphold the principles sought through this policy. I support wilderness and what it provides for humans and wildlife alike, and am open to dialogue if there are specific instances where fixed anchors should not be utilized, or climbing access should be regulated; however, I feel that the proposed policy is overly far reaching in its nature and could severely impact the access and safety of many users who are responsibly recreating in accordance with the tenants of the Wilderness Act.