

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 3:49:14 AM

First name: Pratibha

Last name: Binder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, my name is Pratibha and I'm an avid outdoor enthusiast, rock climber, and lover of our country's national parks, forests, and wilderness areas. The proposed ban on voting and placing new fixed anchors has me seriously concerned. This is a safety issue first and foremost. Many well established climbing routes rely on these fixed bolts and anchors for safe descents. If the climbing community is no longer able to maintain and replace old unsafe bolts, or place them in the first place for new routes, people will die. Plain and simple. The existing rules surrounding bolting have been adequate for decades, and climbers have been respectful of wildlife, leave no trace ethic, and avoiding "eyesores" of bolts visible from the ground by the non climbing public with these rules in place. If bolt maintenance is no longer allowed or regulations make it prohibitively difficult, then old bolts and anchors will become more and more common, and so will failures of these systems, which will lead to avoidable accidents and deaths.

Please abandon these unnecessary changes to the rules surrounding fixed anchors in our beloved national parks and forests. The status quo has served the climbing and non climbing communities well while continuing to protect our wild places.