Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 6:52:55 PM First name: Jeffrey Last name: Umphres Organization: Title:

Comments: As a hiker, mountain biker, camper climber and avid lover of the outdoors I regularly benefit from the multitude efforts of various agencies and their efforts to provide safe accessibility to the outdoors. I am writing specifically today to share my thoughts on the harm that could be caused by the 'FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-3524' document.

Through climbing I have personally experienced more majesty and enjoyment of the outdoors than I ever could have imagined. Without fixed anchors the potential risk of injury or death would have prohibited me from undertaking many of the climbs that I have found most fulfilling.

As many of the anchors are maintained by volunteer organizations its unreasonable to create new guidance policies that will upend the efforts and planning that these organizations have been putting forward for decades.

Beyond that, prohibiting fixed anchors will create significant safety issues as people continue to pursue climbing without the necessary safety equipment. As well, from an equity perspective, this creates significant access issues for individuals seeking to enjoy the national parks and wilderness areas as the would like. The wilderness should remain open to all and accessible to them as they see fit, especially if they hope to enjoy a long established pastime. Similar to this, restricting the establishment of new routes to non-wilderness lands will put an undue burden on undisturbed areas and would remain largely unenforceable as it will create a large amount of confusion between land owners, climbers and enforcing agencies

Climbing has grown a community of supporters who love and care for the wilderness and outdoors. In a time when people continue to grow more connect to screens and more insular activities, this is one of few growing pursuits that is introducing people to the outdoors and creating advocates who will continue to foster and care for our environment.

Please do not pass this bill.