Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 8:21:07 PM First name: Tiffany Last name: Bird Organization:

## Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing. The safety that these anchors provide gives individuals the chance to experience and connect with these majestic lands that previous generations have enjoyed. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes. The history of these routes represents America's climbing legacies and some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.