Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/26/2024 2:43:50 AM First name: Jessie Last name: VanderBoon Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello - I was alarmed to read that there is an impending decision regarding fixed anchor bans in National, Federal, Public lands. Banning fixed anchors would be an extremely detrimental and limiting action - essentially ensuring that our canyons are inaccessible. As a citizen who frequently has the good fortune of exploring these lesser-known areas, I would be devastated to be effectively banned myself from these places. Banning fixed anchors is banning the safe descent of canyons, in many cases. Zion National Park is an excellent example of National Lands thriving with fixed anchors in place. The community at large monitors and maintains these anchors at our own out-of-pocket expense to ensure everyone has an opportunity to *safely* enjoy our beautiful nation. As someone who is also capable of 'ghosting' many canyons (descending a canyon without leaving any trace behind), I am also well aware of many situations and rappels where ghosting techniques are unavailable or simply too risky to attempt. Please, think through the lasting consequences and impacts of a decision of this magnitude. We deserve to explore and recreate in our country in a safe and legal way.