Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/27/2024 8:02:23 AM

First name: Karl Last name: Skeel Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am writing to express my concern about how your proposal will impact climbing. For some personal background, climbing is one of the main ways I connect with nature and exercise outdoors. I hope this can continue to be a sustainable activity for many people.

Here are a few key reasons why I am concerned with the policies drafted. Fixed anchors, which would be prohibited, are essential to keep climbing safe. Banning them is unreasonable when federal agencies have authorized fixed anchors for many years. This would create safety issues as anchors would not be maintained.

Furthermore, the proposed changes would prevent people from exploring wilderness areas. Climbing is a sport that is growing in popularity and allows people of many backgrounds to spend quality time in nature. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing history and prevent future safe and sustainable enjoyment of America's outdoor spaces.

I urge you to make changes to allow fixed anchors to be used to keep climbing safe and sustainable.

Thank you,