Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 5:54:31 PM First name: Nathan Last name: Scottum Organization:

## Title:

Comments: As the climbing community comprises a major portion of visitors to many of our beloved National Forests, I urge further guidance before enacting changes to historically-allowed safety systems. Thousands of individuals from across the United States and abroad travel to our Forest lands solely to enjoy the vertical world. Fixed anchors in various forms are often necessary to maintain safe travel in these environments. The blanket restriction of these critical pieces by government bodies demonstrates not only a lack of understanding, but is also severely unethical. Public lands are in place for the use and enjoyment of our public and should be encouraged. Eliminating fixed anchors will drastically limit usability of much of this land. It will also undoubtedly result in numerous deaths. Importantly, these anchors are often minimally invasive and rarely observable by the non-climbing public. The climbing community at large is committed to advocating for and preserving our natural environment. Please allow those of us who understand this delicate balance of maintaining delicate Wilderness while moving safely within it, the opportunity to participate in policy guidance. Thank you.