

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 11:12:39 PM

First name: Matthew

Last name: Harris

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors are crucial for climbers' safety and are not against the Wilderness Act's provisions. They have been part of climbing practice for over 50 years, enhancing Wilderness protection and ensuring safe, unconfined climbing experiences. It's unreasonable for federal agencies to suddenly ban them, especially given their longstanding allowance and management. Such a prohibition not only compromises safety by hindering essential maintenance-a task the climbing community diligently performs-but also limits necessary real-time safety decisions. Additionally, banning fixed anchors hinders exploration in Wilderness areas, requiring climbers to make spontaneous decisions in complex terrains. This ban poses a threat to America's rich climbing heritage, potentially eliminating significant climbing achievements. Thus, climbing management policies should focus on maintaining safe anchor replacement without removing established routes.