Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 3:07:41 AM

First name: Phoebe Last name: Digges-Elliott

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Often new policy is required to protect land, if it has been exploited. However, we have been using fixed anchors for climbing safety for decades in a responsible way. We should not lose our privilege, or connection to the land. There is an increased risk to climbing accidents, as there will be a barrier to maintaining fixed anchors in the climbing community. We are the stewards of the routes, and replacing anchors so that we can sustainably enjoy our sport, and environment. Prohibiting fixed anchors bars climbers from exploring the terrain we love, and continuing the legacy of American climbing. Please support our work, and do not classify fixed anchors as "prohibited installations", and allow us to continue this tradition, it is many a livelihood, and many a meaning of life. Hear us, please. By restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create distorted communication between land manager and climbers. If new anchor placement is denied, then the climbing community must be presented with a detailed examination, and proof of whether cultural and natural resources are actively being destroyed, or compromised in the process of new anchor placement, so that we can make an equitable decision.