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First name: Nicholas Last name: James Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors in the wilderness allow for safe access to recreation and utilization of lands in a manner that has a long history in our country. Climbing has inspired me to see the natural landscape around me with excitement and gratitude. Exploring the Backcountry and wilderness areas with the intent to climb is a minimally invasive way to access areas of our country that would otherwise never be seen, and fixed anchors are part of what ensures we make it back out of the wilderness safely. As a mental health therapist working with rural populations in Arizona, I have witnessed first-hand the power of climbing to open the eyes and the minds of atrisk youth to the beauty of nature, leading to reductions in harmful behaviors and increased community engagement. I will not access an area unless I know I can walk away from it safely, and fixed anchors are a huge part of that equation for me. Please keep climbing safe. Do not remove fixed anchors in the wilderness.