Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 7:18:53 PM

First name: Matthew Last name: Ripley Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi NPS,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed policies that change how fixed anchors may be used/installed/maintained in wilderness areas. Climbers have long been allies and advocates for protection of wilderness areas and leveraging this long standing tradition to work together to better manage how climbers use wilderness areas would be to everyone's advantage and better serve to protect these precious areas.

Prohibiting fixed anchors won't solve issues of increased land use and impacts on wilderness areas and instead will serve to make climbing recreation less safe as well as threaten the legacy of rock climbing in America where some of the worlds greatest routes have been established. With such a rich history of climbing recreation and land stewardship it would make more sense to engage with the climbing community directly to find improved policies for fix anchors and best practices for installing and maintaining them rather than outright banning them.

Thanks for your consideration!