

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 7:33:09 PM

First name: Briana

Last name: Patton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please support safe access to climbing on public lands by rejecting barriers to installing and maintaining fixed anchors!

Fixed anchors provide broader access to outdoor climbing. Not allowing fixed anchors or bolts means that access to climbing on public lands becomes possible for only elite climbers with access to additional training, gear and mentoring. As a federal organization, you need to strive to fight historic and current inequality and make public lands

This policy would reduce safety. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.