

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 8:12:02 PM

First name: Mike

Last name: Slavens

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed prohibition on fixed anchors (bolts, pitons, slings) in wilderness areas. Climbers and land managers have decades of successfully following existing policies to manage use, installation, and replacement of fixed anchors. Prohibiting fixed anchors strips citizens of safe access to existing historical established climbing routes and denies the safe exploration of future routes in the many wilderness areas across our country. This limits outdoor access and the tourism dollars that comes with those activities. Prohibition would make criminals out of people just trying to keep routes safe and open which is absurd. We have systems and policies in place to safely and efficiently manage fixed anchors so it's unclear why prohibition is needed. These fixed anchors in most cases are only seen and impact climbers. Climbers have always been proponents of protecting cultural and natural resources and so support effective policies to protect the resources but this is not outright ban on fixed anchors. Prohibition safe and respectful use and exploration of our wilderness areas. Let's use effective existing policies to build a strong relationship instead of dividing users and land managers with unnecessary blanket bans.