

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 12:02:33 AM

First name: Diana

Last name: Hsieh

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Diana Hsieh and I am strongly opposed to the proposed draft policies that would make fixed anchors prohibited in wilderness areas.

I have been rock climbing for over 10 years and it is one of my major reasons for me enjoying Tucson as much as I do. Bolts have been allowed across the country for decades and this reversal would cause great harm to the climbing community. Climbing is only getting more popular year by year and by proposing these policies you will make it more inaccessible to the public. However, people will continue to seek climbs regardless of the policy, risking their health and safety. Please do not create these unnecessary safety issues and barriers to the public.

Climbers are also some of the most responsible members of the public with a strong desire to protect our wilderness areas. We wish to continue to experience our wilderness areas and to do so we all try to be good stewards of the lands we climb on. This is why there are so many climbing coalitions who do the following: educate the public, fix/replace bolts, organize clean-up events, organize trail building days, etc. This can all be done collaboratively and oftentimes are.

Please do not prohibit the use of fixed anchors in our wilderness areas, this would make it more inaccessible and dangerous to those of us who care for the lands as much as you all do.

Sincerely,

Diana Hsieh