Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 3:54:55 PM First name: Marina Last name: Clark Organization: Title:

Comments: I could write 100 reasons why fixed anchors are a critical piece of public land exploration and the experience of climbers. Instead I want to emphasize the importance of managing an issue that is simply out of your control. There has been a bolting ban in my home mountain range, the Bighorn Mountains for several years now and it has without a doubt, failed. Our public lands are too vast and private for you to be able to micro manage development and hold people accountable. I am not saying that I disagree with the bolting ban in the Bighorns by the way. Climbing has become somewhat of a virus and not everyone is respecting the land in the way it should be. I'd like to provide some options for management below:

- Require that all bolts and fixed gear must be hand drilled (no power tools.) That would slow down the process and eliminate the ease of development. Make climbing cool again and take us back to our roots. The sound of a power drill alone would give away folks breaking the rules.

- Require that people apply for a permit to replace fixed gear. Perhaps when given a permit, they can use a power drill? After 10-20 years the fixed gear on climbs deteriorates and becomes unsafe. To the untrained eye, it is still useable and there have been many sad accidents involving inexperienced climbers clipping bad gear. If we cannot replace the gear, climbers will still climb, there will be accidents and both the climbers and rescue teams will be greatly put at risked. Isn't this how it works in RMNP?

- Create a standard, acceptable practice for fixed gear. Only the most durable and long lasting equipment to eliminate future littering.

Climbing DOES need to be managed, but not cancelled entirely. Look to examples like Yosemite and how that park has nurtured and managed the relationship with climbers as a shining example. As someone who lives outside of the gate of Yellowstone, I shudder to think of the rest of public lands being closed off and micromanaged such as that public space. It is an infringement on our liberty and what makes America one of the best places to live. Also, I say again, good luck cancelling climbing and keeping track of all of us. It has not worked in the past, and you could never hire enough staff to enforce this overbearing rule. I hope that we can continue to facilitate a symbiotic relationship as climbers, in general, lead as an example of how to have a minimal impact and leave no trace.