Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 4:43:03 PM First name: Nico Last name: Anon Organization: Title:

Comments: I have been climbing for three years, both indoors and outdoors. My passion for climbing has led me to dream of visiting iconic climbing spots in the United States, where legendary climbers have achieved remarkable feats. Having recently completed the book "Push," Tommy's seven-year journey to free climb the Dawn Wall in Yosemite has truly inspired me to intensify my training and enhance my climbing skills. In 2024, I am planning to explore various locations, including Yosemite, Zion, and Rocky Mountain.

The proposal to prohibit fixed anchors in climbing areas is a matter of concern as it poses a threat to America's rich climbing legacy, potentially erasing some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. The climbing management policy must prioritize the protection of existing routes from removal.

It appears unreasonable for federal agencies to introduce new guidelines restricting climbing anchors in Wilderness areas nationwide. For decades, these agencies have permitted, managed, and authorized fixed anchors without any significant changes or crises. The question arises: Why implement this change now, and what specific harm does a small anchor cause to nature? As someone who values and wishes to preserve nature, I assert that fixed anchors have minimal impact while being a crucial component of climbers' safety systems.

The prohibition of fixed anchors could lead to safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of these anchors, a responsibility assumed by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often need to be made in the moment, and any authorization process should not hinder those decisions. Managing fixed anchor maintenance in a way that encourages safe replacement without risking the removal of climbing routes is essential.

I urge you to reconsider this decision in order to protect both nature and the climbing legacy. Preserving these aspects will not only inspire more people, particularly younger generations, to enjoy sports climbing safely but also foster a greater appreciation for nature.