Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 5:40:23 PM First name: Mark Last name: Rohr Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to policy proposals that would classify climbing anchors as prohibited installations on wilderness lands. I have enjoyed exploring backcountry areas my whole life and have been climbing for nearly 20 years. Climbing has taken me to many amazing places throughout our country, many of them in wilderness areas. Fixed climbing anchors are very low impact-any experienced climber can tell you of times they've had trouble finding an anchor even when they knew where to look. Fixed anchors are essential for climbers' safety. Fixed anchors have exited in wilderness areas for decades. Anchors last for many years, but not forever. Extra hurdles to maintain or replace anchors on existing routes would risk climber safety. Climbing is a wonderful way to explore our nation's wilderness areas, and fixed climbing anchors are essential to being able to do that. Climbers are good stewards of the land and those who venture into wilderness areas strive to minimize their impact. Therefore climbers can be trusted to use good judgment in placing anchors.