Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 5:57:46 PM First name: Christopher Last name: Ivy Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a climber and have enjoyed years of climbing in our national forests. My concern with this proposal is that it will add thick layers of bureaucracy, regulation, and policing to climbing in our national forests, and in doing so, put climbers' lives at risk. Thus far, the climbing community, with organizations such as ASCA, the Access Fund and the American Alpine Club, has worked to create collaborative and respectful relationships with communities to make climbing environmentally sustainable, respectful of cultural heritage, and safe for climbers. By adding more government regulation to the maintenance of climbing hardware and the use of climbing areas, the likelihood that outdated and dangerous hardware that needs replaced, but isn't replaced due to red tape around doing so, means that accidents and deaths are more likely. Please leave it to the local climbing communities to maintain and manage anchors and hardware in our national forests. While I believe it is reasonable and smart to create policies that protect our forests from abuse and overuse, I believe that this specific proposal will have negative unintended consequences for climbers and the USFS.