Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 9:03:48 PM First name: DANIEL Last name: FIELD Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal. Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.