

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 9:32:36 PM

First name: Kristina

Last name: Ericson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a lifelong climber, climbing advocate, and someone who works in the climbing space, I am writing today to say that prohibiting the placement of fixed anchors on public land will create drastic safety hazards for climbers of all ages, skill levels, and walks of life.

Bolts allow us to recreate safely, appropriately, and with confidence. They allow us to enjoy our public lands in ways that are non-invasive, and in ways that empower us. A fixed anchor is an essential part of my safety system - and of the systems that I use to take people out climbing. 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.