

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 10:11:23 PM

First name: John

Last name: Cartwright

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please re-consider the proposed new regulations on fixed anchors and find a more balanced approach which allows climbing to continue as a legitimate and popular form of recreation and enjoyment of our country's wilderness areas.

Fixed anchors are essential for climbing in many circumstances and it is critical that policies allow for their maintenance (a responsibility usually undertaken by the climbing community). It is not clear why the existing policies, which have allowed judicious use of fixed anchors for more than 50 years, need to be replaced. The use of fixed climbing anchors has no discernible impact on other wilderness users and the designation of the anchors as "installations" is simply misguided.

Regarding restrictions on non-wilderness lands, the proposed regulations will generate confusion among both land managers and climbers. Climbing management policy should allow for new anchors and replacement of existing ones unless there is a clear need to protect cultural/natural resources. Particularly when one considers the other activities allowed on non-wilderness land, the use of fixed anchors for climbing cannot have any measurable impact.