

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 11:43:57 PM

First name: Jessica

Last name: K

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm commenting to oppose the draft policy to make fixed anchors prohibited in Wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are essential for safety. If these are prohibited, the number of accidents and rescues in wilderness areas will likely increase substantially. This draft policy essentially reverses precedent set by decades of wilderness climbing during which anchors have been authorized and managed. At a minimum, climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal to preserve rich climbing history in the US. Furthermore, 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.