

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 11:49:47 PM

First name: Emil

Last name: Briggs

Organization:

Title:

Comments: There is a long standing practice of allowing fixed anchors for climbing under the Wilderness Act. The current policies have worked well and changes to the policy that will require federal agencies to prohibit wilderness climbing anchors that have been allowed for decades will create safety and maintenance issues. Anchors do degrade over time and are normally replaced by the climbing community in a timely fashion in order to ensure safety. Requiring authorization before replacing an anchor will lead to safety hazards while imposing additional and unnecessary burdens on the agencies in question.

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.