Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 12:31:07 AM First name: Brian Last name: Easterday Organization: Title: Comments: Support for the Installation and Maintenance of Fixed Anchors on Public Lands

I am writing to express my strong support for the installation and maintenance of fixed anchors in our parks and public lands. As an enthusiast of outdoor activities, particularly rock climbing and rappelling, I understand the critical role that these fixed anchors play in ensuring the safety and well-being of all who engage in these pursuits.

Fixed anchors, such as bolts and pitons, are essential for safe climbing and rappelling. They provide secure points that climbers can rely on during their ascent or descent, significantly reducing the risk of accidents. The natural environment, while beautiful and inspiring, can also be unpredictable and hazardous. Fixed anchors offer a degree of predictability and safety that is vital in these settings.

Furthermore, the installation of fixed anchors can help to minimize environmental impact. Without established routes that these anchors provide, climbers might resort to creating their own paths, leading to vegetation damage and soil erosion. By directing climbers along specific routes, we can preserve the natural beauty and integrity of our public lands.

It is also crucial to recognize the need for regular maintenance of these anchors. Over time, exposure to the elements can weaken anchors, making them unreliable and dangerous. Regular inspections and maintenance ensure that these anchors remain in optimal condition, providing safety for climbers year after year.

The presence of fixed anchors also opens up our public lands to a broader range of visitors, including those who might not have the skill or equipment to climb without them. This inclusivity aligns with the principles of public land management, which aim to make natural resources accessible and enjoyable for all.

I urge you to consider the numerous benefits of fixed anchors and to support their installation and maintenance on our public lands. By doing so, we not only enhance the safety of outdoor enthusiasts but also contribute to the responsible and sustainable enjoyment of our natural environment.

Thank you for considering this important matter. I am hopeful for a positive response and am willing to assist or participate in any way that further supports this cause.

Sincerely,

Brian E.