Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:43:12 AM First name: James Last name: McLendon Organization:

Title:

Comments: I, like many other recreational and professional climbers around the country, rely on fixed anchors to ensure safety when climbing. It is unreasonable to prohibit them when they have been allowed, managed, and authorized for decades. Their prohibition will create unnecessary hazard; climbers will be forced to construct much less safe natural anchors (where it is even possible) and will be slowed significantly building these anchors - potentially resulting in accident. Further, climbers may rely more on vegetation for anchors which, with increased use, has the potential to harm the trees and bushes on climbing popular routes. Finally, this policy has the potential to damage America's legacy of rock climbing. Some of the best climbing destinations in the world and some classic, historic routes will be lost if this ban is enacted and enforced, tarnishing our history. Fixed climbing anchors must be protected to ensure the continued access, safety, and legacy for all those who want to enjoy the freedom offered in this country's vertical wildernesses.