Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 3:20:07 AM First name: Alex Last name: Anon Organization:

## Title:

Comments: As a lifelong outdoor enthusiast and a rock climber of nearly 30 years, I am troubled by the newlyproposed interpretation of the rules regarding fixed anchors on America's Forest Service lands and strenuously protest against fixed-anchor prohibition in these spaces. I have been climbing on National Forest lands for my entire career, and the use of fixed anchors has often been essential for safe passage in these gorgeous vertical environments. Changing the longstanding policy that has allowed for the development of rock climbing in these spaces not only undermines that safety but it also excludes future generations of climbers from the formative and enriching experiences that I've enjoyed as a climber in these areas. While careful management and the judicious use of fixed anchors is equally important, prohibition is not a reasonable approach, especially as it reverses the long-standing precedents that have allowed Americans like me to enjoy lands managed by the US Forest Service in an environmentally-responsible and safe manner. I encourage the US Forest Service to eschew this new interpretation of the Wilderness Act that prohibits fixed anchors; in doing so, the Forest Service will allow rock climbing to continue to be a way for people to enjoy America's public lands for generations to come.