Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 3:55:31 AM First name: Tallie Last name: Casucci Organization:

Title:

Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to voice my perspective on the current proposal regarding fixed anchors, fixed equipment, and bolts in wilderness. As a rock climber living in Utah, many of our local climbing areas or "crags" are located in wilderness areas (sometimes predating that designation). Fixed anchors are essential pieces of our safety system that allow us to safely and sustainably access vertical terrain. Additionally, search and rescue professionals use fixed anchors to perform their essential work. As a Salt Lake Climbers Alliance member, I oppose the classification that fixed anchors are prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act and believe that any such language should be omitted from the final guidance. The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, the local climbing organization, employs professional technicians to replace and maintain fixed anchors in partnership with both public and private land managers. Please see their comment letter for more details with case studies. The current proposal raises many safety, logistical, feasibility, and sustainability concerns. I respectfully request that better, common-sense directives that utilize location-specific Climbing Management Plans be proposed instead. There are local and national climbing organizations that are willing to help maintain these recreational opportunities alongside USFS employees.