

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:51:03 AM

First name: Tiffany

Last name: Tom

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Secretary Vilsack and Chief Moore:

I write in objection to the USFS's "FSM 2355 Climbing Opportunities #ORMS-352" due to the significant impact it will have on established fixed anchors in wilderness and outside wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are necessary for people to climb safely. Based on my research, under the proposed policy, fixed anchors would be deemed "prohibited installations" and potentially marked for removal. In addition, the policy would prevent people from replacing anchors if they become unsafe until a review is completed by USFS. This creates a great risk to climber's safety and reduces access to climbable rocks.

Although I understand the need for a policy regarding fixed anchors in wilderness areas, I believe there needs to be more education concerning the USFS's proposed policy, including the real world implications of the policy in the USFS's view. As members of the public, and with the help of climbing organizations, we can only determine the potential impacts based on the language of the proposed policy.

I also endorse the Tribal Consultation process to ensure indigenous voices are heard, in the hopes that the USFS incorporates indigenous viewpoints in developing the final policy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Tom