Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/22/2023 2:55:38 PM First name: Louis Last name: Brown Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi my name is Louis brown. I am a rockclimber and professional guide from South east Tennessee. I would like to share my opppion on the recently shared draft policy's regarding fixed anchors in US wilderness areas. Fixed anchors are an essential part of a climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character. This will allow lessen the impact on our search and rescue crews as with out this pice of our safety system there will be more accidents to respond to resulting in more injuries aswell. Banning fixed anchors will also threaten Americans rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal. Lastly this would affect guiding companies and the many individuals that work these great areas by making there job more dangerous than needed or not possible. This also takes the opportunity for less skilled individuals to use these companies to experience the Wilderness in such a important way. I hope we can all come to a agreement with a rewritten policy that allows for safe experience to be had by all climbers in our great Wilderness lands.

Thank you Louis Brown Professional guide