Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 1:29:35 AM First name: Jennie Last name: McCraw Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a climber concerned about NPS and USFS draft policies making fixed anchors prohibited in America's Wilderness areas. These proposed policies would impact some of our country's best and most iconic climbs in our national parks and other public lands. People from all over the world enjoy climbing in these beautiful and unique areas and I strongly support the idea of national climbing management guidance that would protect safe, sustainable access to wilderness climbing. Fixed anchors in these areas are essential to the safety of climbers and if removed, would likely contribute to more need for emergency response in the event that climbers would attempt the routes anyway. I question why federal agencies are attempting to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness anchors when they have been allowed, managed, and fixed for many years. As a climber, it is important for me to know that climbing areas that I go to are being managed and updated for safety as has been the practice among the climbing community for decades. It is imperative that these areas are allowed to continue to be managed and overseen by people who understand the sport and are well equipped to diagnose and treat any problems noted, again ensuring more safety and less reliance on search and rescue teams in the event of catastrophe. Also, attempting to restrict the establishment of new climbing routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-wilderness lands would be difficult to enforce and would make it hard on land managers and climbers alike. I hope the USFS will consider this input and input from others who enjoy the sport of climbing and will not implement policies that would potentially endanger lives and spoil access to some of our country's most beautiful and challenging terrain.