Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 8:08:55 PM First name: Abby Last name: Thompson Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am very concerned regarding the National Park Service's and the United States Forest Service's draft policy pertaining to fixed anchors. I am an avid climber in my state of Montana. The goal of the NPS and USFS is to have people explore the great outdoors via our public lands in a safe and responsible way. In Montana we have always been told by the Forest Service the more people in our forests the better. People should be using the public land and enjoying it with many different sports and activities.

By banning specific sports in the wilderness:

1. you are taking away the rights of those individuals to enjoy our great outdoors and public lands. I live next to the 5th largest wilderness in the lower 48 states and multiple state forests. I know where the fixed anchors are and I still have a hard time seeing them up close. From a distance it is impossible. These anchors are not an eye sore. Current law is already working well to keep our wildernesses beautiful and peaceful.

2. By banning fixed anchors the explorers' safety is greatly at risk. Anchors would not be able to be replaced when necessary, thus putting human lives at risk.

3. Climbing is part of our world, our country, our culture. We as humans should be allowed to continue to respectfully and safely play in our public lands.

Thank you for your time and consideration