Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 1:21:23 PM First name: Emmett Last name: OBrien Organization: Title: Comments: Dear USFS,

Firstly, thanks so much for your efforts maintaining and protecting America's forests.

This is regarding recently released draft policies that would make fixed anchors (bolts, pitons, slings) prohibited in America's Wilderness areas.

In summary, restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration, Dr Emmett OBrien