Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 6:47:33 PM First name: Karen Last name: Gilbert Organization: Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my serious concern with the new suggested policy to prohibit fixed anchors in wilderness areas. Anchors are critical for climbers safety in wilderness areas. Fixed anchors maintenance should instead be encouraged in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Outdoor recreation and safety should be for everyone. Policies that cannot be logistically enforced will have dangerous consequences for climbers and will remove some of the world's greatest climbing achievements.

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.