Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 8:20:36 PM First name: Benjamin Last name: Houldridge Organization:

## Title:

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed policy change. As an avid sport climber, I'm excited to see that climbing may soon be a more common consideration when developing land management plans. I often go backpacking in wilderness areas for the solitude and remoteness they provide. Even though I enjoy sport climbing seeing climbing infrastructure in wilderness areas has always felt a bit off to me. I'm impressed that this proposal will balance that preservation of wilderness areas with the recreation opportunities provided by climbing infrastructure. The way it's written gives me full confidence places like Yosemite will have a very different plan compared to my favorite wilderness the Pecos. This is how it should be and so I'm glad this is taken into account in the policy. I know many people are worried that the future management plans will not fit their desire for public lands and I'm sure they will not fit mine either, but I think this is a bad argument against the policy. Past interactions with rangers and land management have shown me that I can trust you to better balance preservation and uses in a way I or my climbing community never could. I feel confident that this policy will improve the interactions between the wilderness and its users. Thank you for this policy update, I fully support it going into effect.