Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 3:39:27 PM First name: Andrew Last name: Shoemaker Organization: Title:

Comments: I do not support this proposal as written. I support new regulation regarding installation of climbing hardware in Wilderness Areas. However, a thorough re-evaluation of ALL currently designated wilderness must be completed before any new regulation. As a frequent user of Wilderness Areas on the Olympic Penninsula I see GREAT value in the Wilderness Act and federal protection of Wilderness Areas.

However, many "Wilderness Areas" in the western US are not wilderness in any sense of the word. From Red Rocks, to Yosemite, to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in WA State which directly abuts a 6 lane highway.- many designated areas have massive amount of human development already in place, within earshot and sight. Limiting the types of climbing hardware used and installed in many of these ROADSIDE areas which are technically "Wilderness" is totally counterproductive and not in the spirit of the Wilderness Act.

This proposal should be scrapped and a new plan begun to re-evaluate all currently designated wilderness. I fully support the regulation of bolts and other climbing hardware in Wilderness Areas that are TRULY wilderness. However at this time, many roadside and otherwise highly developed, highly trammeled climbing areas will be significantly effected and NOT in the spirit of the Wilderness Act.

The Olympic Penninsula currently has a great example of Wilderness Area designation. In this area, you must first drive many miles on a dirt road and then walk several miles on a trail before being inside a Wilderness Area. If users make this effort they are rewarded with a truly wilderness experience with very little evidence of human development.

Red Rocks. Yosemite. Mount Lemmon. Joshua Tree. Etc. These places MUST be re-evaluated with regards to Wilderness Designation PRIOR to new regulation of climbing installations. No doubt wilderness exists in these areas, but the current boundaries are unreasonable and not in the spirit of the Wilderness Act.

Thank you