

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 5:24:21 PM

First name: Dan

Last name: Veenhuizen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am a climber and former NPS Climbing Ranger as well as Forest Service wilderness ranger. I support managing wilderness areas to preserve wilderness character for future generations. I support that this draft policy acknowledges climbing activities as an appropriate use of wilderness and allows for future placement of fixed anchors as well as maintenance of existing anchors.

My main concern is that the application and review process could potentially be too onerous or the timelines too lengthy to allow for limited future development of climbing routes. I would like to see a process that allows for exploration type trips where the objective may not be identified specifically, but a set of criteria and general location could be approved. This would allow for developers to be prepared when they travel without having to get to a remote location, and then come out and apply for their permit to install fixed anchors.

I would also like to see language that allows for application of maintenance approval to a broad area, such as in Joshua Tree National Park where there are thousands of climbing routes.

Thanks you for your consideration.

-Dan Veenhuizen