Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/18/2023 10:09:27 AM First name: Kyle Last name: McCrohan Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not believe that there should be restrictions on where bolts can be placed in wilderness or that the land managers should have to review each installation or replacement. Obviously, bolts must be placed by hand. The management review process sounds nice in theory, but the forest service has many more important things to manage and review, like forest health, wildfire prevention, and road maintenance. They should not be spending their precious staff time worry about bolts. If bolt reviews are left in limbo for extended periods of time, this could lead to old, unsafe anchors not getting replaced, creating a safety hazard. Climbers might compensate by using more tat, which visually marks the landscape and often ends up as trash in our environments, as we see in areas like North Cascades National Park. To a certain extent, local climbing communities already enforce good bolting ethics (don't bolt things that don't need to be bolted) and remove bolts that don't fit this ethos. While this is not a perfect solution, it is far better than decreasing the safety of this sport. As noted in the guidance, the use of fixed anchors "can fulfill important wilderness recreational purposes and can help preserve wilderness character." We should not create a system where fixed anchors become extremely unlikely or not allowed.