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First name: Jesse

Last name: Morehouse

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation. I appreciate the concerns you are trying to balance here. My big picture comment is that if climbing is a legitimate activity in wilderness then there must be a way to allow for the modest use of fixed hardware. Banning fixed hardware would result in the use of other means of descent anchors mainly nylon cord which is an eyesore and a trash problem over time. Allowing on route protection bolts that are properly camouflaged would also reduce both the visual impact of other options and increase the safety of climbs.

A secondary concern is the proposed implementation of permits, "the issuance and administration of special use permits are encouraged to enhance visitor access to climbing opportunities" which seems like a poor idea from a resource perspective as well as a means of discouraging wilderness enjoyment in many cases. I can see some exceptions where climbing is highly popular but the language here is too broad.

Finally, I think that a useful first step would possibly be to halt action on this legislation if possible and conduct a study to determine what is truly appropriate here. Is this really a big deal or is it the beginning of a slippery slope? More facts would be nice to have.