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Title:

Comments: As a climber as well as an outdoor enthusiast since I was a young child, I do not agree with these proposals by the NPS & the USFS. My belief is that the government, no matter the organization, is not fit to make decisions that directly affect and impact my safety while on the wall and in the mountains. These decisions are better left to the qualified community of climbers who install & have installed the already existing protection in our National Forests and Parks, the very same people whose lives rely on said protection. These proposals directly take away our freedom to choose the style and way we climb a route. While I do agree oversight is necessary for the preservation of our great public lands, I also believe that it's a very fine line you are required to walk as our government before it becomes overreach and not oversight. I spend most of my free time in nature and can honestly say I have never gazed at a rock face and thought to myself, "the anchors and bolts on that wall really take away from my experience and the naturalness of the area," partly because they can rarely be seen with the naked eye unless you are on the route yourself. I am also an avid lecturer on leave no trace, but as far as the environmental impact of climbing protection in the outdoors goes I believe that it is virtually non-existent, and the attempt of the NPS and USFS to hide behind these fabricated reasons is a disservice to the very people and environment they have sworn to serve, especially when there are far larger and more realistic safety & environmental issues threatening our great parks and forests in this nation. I strongly disagree and encourage both the NPS and the USFS to cease and desist with what can only be described as an attack on the climbing community, a community who whole heartedly support and recognize these organizations' important role in protecting our wonderful public lands. I can not agree or go along with this blatant attempt at overreach by the use of a fabricated crisis. Please do what is right and just, and keep our public lands what they were always intended to be - public- meaning they belong to the people.

I hope you will listen and take into consideration both my voice as well as the countless others in the climbing community who are concerned and strongly disagree with these proposals.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to voice my concerns,  
Dakota Outman