

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/3/2023 7:04:58 PM

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Title:

Comments: Hi, I just wanted to comment on this as someone who enjoys climbing and other recreation in the wonderful Forest Service lands we have in NH. Big shout out to all that help maintain them, as it's a big source of joy and it's rare I see anything but good work on the facilities and trails.

This addition has the potential to stymie climbing and I'm actively worried about it. Climbing in NH has gone through many twists and turns, but as I am developing as a leader, a critical piece has been the ability to climb lines that are safely equipped with either full bolts (sport in Rumney) or just top anchors (such as Lost Horizon at Sundown).

This helps me be able to climb safely while reducing my impact on things like trees and other vegetation that I'd otherwise have to use for safe anchoring and belays.

The reason I say this could stymie it is the amount of paperwork or process is highly variable, and if a new supervisor came in and decided to just slow the paperwork approval, you could end up with some bad accidents as regular maintenance becomes restricted.

I'd ask that instead a more permissive stand be taken on items like top anchors, as per the reading, if the funding isn't there then NO bolts can be touched anywhere.

I don't want us to end up on the wrong side of the hardworking FS folks simply for keeping ourselves safe, and I see no real mention of that factor anywhere. Bolt replacements, at a minimum, should be blanket allowed if like for like in the same holes.

I'm concerned that the potential burden of process will move many land managers to just ban it for convenience purposes, as we've seen with many climbing areas.

Please consider the historic, current and future uses, as especially in NH, these are highly trafficked lands and restricting the ability for organizations to create safe options for climbers will just lead to bad behavior, bad accidents and a worse outcome for all.