Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/3/2023 7:15:53 PM First name: Steven Last name: Ahlrich Organization: Title:

Comments: I'm writing today in support of the Forest Service managing and limiting the placement of permanent bolts in wilderness areas. As a climber and wilderness user, I understand that maintaining wilderness character requires that climbers, as well as other wilderness users, accept a higher level of risk. Rather than hammering the wilderness into submission, climbers accept that some wilderness rock faces are not climbable.

Climbing is an important part of my life. It's taken me to incredible places around the country, including numerous wilderness areas. Climbing areas outside of wilderness, abound across the country, while designated wilderness areas are a small fraction of our public lands. It's important that we don't impact the primitive character that we cherish in our wilderness areas for the sake of any particular user group, including climbers. When we degrade wilderness with human development, we lose these wild places forever. Future generations will thank us for preserving these wilderness areas.

Please reject attempts by user groups to open access and development in designated wilderness areas that will negatively impact wilderness character.