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First name: Bram

Last name: Creeden

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest service;

I am writing to express my deep concern and disagreement with the recent proposal that aims to make climbing on fixed anchors illegal until each individual bolt is reviewed. I understand the importance of ensuring safety and environmental responsibility, but I believe this proposal overlooks the profound impact it would have on climbers and the genuine commitment our community has to preserving and respecting our natural areas.

Rock climbing has been a transformative and enriching aspect of my life. It serves not only as a means of self-expression but has also allowed me to build a community of like-minded individuals, fostering meaningful relationships, and even leading me to meet my life partner. The climbing community, by its very nature, shares a deep connection with nature and a commitment to the stewardship of the areas we explore.

One aspect that I find disheartening about this proposal is the lack of acknowledgment for the initiatives undertaken by climbers to care for and maintain the areas we frequent. Climbing communities often organize and participate in trail maintenance, clean-up events, and other conservation efforts. This commitment to environmental stewardship demonstrates that climbers are not just users but active contributors to the well-being of our public lands.

Moreover, the proposed requirement to review each individual bolt seems impractical and disproportionate. It fails to consider the substantial labor and funding required for such a comprehensive survey. Climbing areas are diverse, and implementing this proposal would demand an immense logistical effort that might not be feasible or justifiable. Some climbs are up to an hour of hiking just to reach the climbing area. In the Poudre Canyon alone there are hundreds of climbs each consisting 5-15 bolts plus two at the top this equates to thousands of bolts in one canyon alone.

Rock climbing is a legitimate and established use of natural areas, and passing this proposal would contradict the very principles set forth by your organization. Furthermore, it would be potentially erasing the rich history of climbing in the US. Literally cutting off the individual accomplishments of hundreds of climbers and stifling the freedoms of thousands of Americans in the future. Climbers value and appreciate the beauty of our national forests, and it is in our collective interest to ensure minimal impact on these precious resources.

I implore you to reconsider this proposal and engage with the climbing community in a collaborative manner. By working together, we can find solutions that prioritize safety, environmental preservation, and the continued enjoyment of our national forests by all user groups.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I am hopeful that, through dialogue, we can arrive at a balanced solution that addresses concerns while preserving the integrity of rock climbing in our public spaces.

Sincerely,

Bram Creeden