

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 5:01:31 PM

First name: Nick

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I don't necessarily see an issue with restricting the placement of new bolts on new routes in wilderness areas like Yosemite. I am however completely opposed to restricting the maintenance of hardware that is already in place. This would be a law that directly threatens the safety of anyone climbing these routes while simultaneously not solving the issue at hand. If a bolt is already in place, removing it still leaves a hole in the rock, and simply never replacing it does nothing but endanger people using it.

On another note, I don't see these laws as being easily enforceable. The amount of resources it would take to train people to inspect/ remove the thousands of bolts on the sides of cliffs is absurd. That just seems like a mismanagement of resources and time. Instead, why not implement a bolting permit system with consequences if it isn't followed? You'll never catch 100% of the bad actors, but at least some people will be open to a permit system. Frankly I can't think of a single climber who's okay with an outright ban on bolting these days.

Lastly, there is a rich climbing history in Yosemite that is directly tied with the usage of bolts and other fixed anchors. Yosemite itself has paid to used climbing history for marketing purposes, and it works. Ask any of the tourists who come to Yosemite and they'll tell you that the climbers are one of the coolest things about the park. So at the end of the day, who do these laws serve? Not the tourists, not the general public, in fact, the only people who will ever even notice fixed anchors are climbers. This seems like a direct attack on the climbing community, since truly the climbing community is the only group who will ever notice the repercussions. This won't affect hikers, or rangers, or tourists, or even future generations. An outright ban on fixed anchors, or laws that are confusing and impossible to enforce, serve no one and are a waste of money, time, and emotion.