

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 8:58:12 PM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Szalay

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Chief Moore:

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the recent proposal to ban climbing bolts in National Forests. As a climber and a passionate advocate for responsible outdoor recreation, I believe such a prohibition may have unintended consequences on both the climbing community and the conservation goals we share.

Climbing bolts have played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of climbers while minimizing environmental impact. These fixed anchors provide essential support for climbers, reducing the need for additional, potentially more harmful, gear placements. While I fully appreciate the National Forest Service's commitment to preserving the natural beauty and integrity of our forests, I believe a complete ban on climbing bolts is not the most effective approach to achieve these goals.

I propose that, instead of an outright ban, we work together to develop comprehensive guidelines that strike a balance between preserving the environment and allowing climbers to enjoy their activities responsibly. By engaging in open communication and collaboration with the climbing community, the National Forest Service can foster a sense of shared responsibility and promote sustainable practices.

Climbers are dedicated to Leave No Trace principles and are often at the forefront of conservation efforts. It is my belief that a cooperative approach, where climbers are involved in the decision-making process, will lead to more effective solutions that address environmental concerns without compromising the essence of climbing.

I urge the National Forest Service to reconsider the proposed ban and to engage in a dialogue with the climbing community to find a mutually beneficial solution. Together, we can work towards maintaining the delicate balance between recreation and conservation in our National Forests.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to a positive resolution that respects the needs of both outdoor enthusiasts and the preservation of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Andrew Szalay