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First name: Heather

Last name: Cossette

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I would like to comment on the recent news that bolting climbs in wilderness areas would be prohibited with these new laws. As a sustainability professional, avid nature lover, preservationist, and rock climber I urge you to reconsider this over reach. As a member of the middle Tennessee and southern Arizona climbing communities I can tell you this action creates more harm than good. Climbers have a long standing love of our natural places and we often seek to protect and preserve these places. The values of NPS and NFS align with climbers and that can be seen through the actions of the community by trail maintenance, wildlife documentation, litter and graffiti removal. The blanket ban on bolting creates an unsafe situation for the community at large as gear could no longer be maintained and climbing would probably continue but with out the community knowledge of how to do it safely. This would put immense strain on the NPS as there could be an increase in injuries as well as the conflicts that could arise from the policing of areas.

Connection with nature is the one of the most important connections humans have in this life and so many have expressed how rock climbing has saved their life. I can personally say being connected to the rocks and nature has changed who I am and inspired me to devote my time and energy into preserving these places for future generations to enjoy and experience.

I understand the need for regulation in our natural places but the unintended consequences of this action will be vast and deep. Thank you for your time and I trust you will reverse this decision.