

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/7/2024 4:39:18 PM

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Comments: As a long-standing supporter and user of wilderness areas on federal lands, I am also an alpine rock climber and appreciate that climbing is one of the key ways of experiencing wilderness. I agree that reasonable restrictions need to be placed on bolting in wilderness -- I don't want wilderness areas to become "grid bolted" like many sport climbing areas elsewhere.

However, limited and thoughtful bolting, e.g. replacing existing bolts, creating safe and low-impact repelling routes, etc., does have (and has had) a place in exploring and experiencing wilderness areas. I believe the 60+ year history of climbing in many wilderness areas shows that this can be done respectfully and in line with wilderness principles. Climbers are also strong advocates for wilderness and its protection. Restricting their access would likely lead to less support for wilderness protection.

The proposed regulations go too far and will likely lead to climbers being unsafe and increasing overall resources impacts, e.g. rapping off trees, leaving "tat" behind at rappel stations, etc.

I suggest you work with the Access Fund to develop a more balanced set of regulations for bolting and climbing in wilderness.